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Yacoub Yusef Behbehani

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RAJAB 10, 1408 AH

18 PAGES 150 FILLS



HH the Amir (left) being greeted by armed forces officials in Bubyar. Sheikh Nawaf is second from left.



Seafarers return from a voyage

Amir inspects advance defence positions

Kuwait celebrates National Day

KUWAIT celebrated its 27th National Day amid happiness, joy and gaiety.

There were also appeals for unity to face threats against the country.

Thousands of people watched folk dances, musical displays and other festivities held in different areas of Kuwait.

HH the Amir, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, marked the day with visits to military defences along the northern border.

Assigned

The Amir, accompanied by Defence Minister Sheikh Nayef Al Ahmed and top Army commanders, inspected advance positions and supportive defences.

He also visited the Bubyar

island, 75 miles (120 kms) north-east of Kuwait City.

The Amir discussed with field commanders the tasks assigned to them amidst "these critical circumstances." The Amir wished the armed forces best of luck.

The officers assured the Amir they will remain the vigilant eye that monitors every emergency.

Danced

HH the Crown Prince and Premier in a televised address on the eve of the National Day called upon the Kuwaiti people for unity to defend and protect the country.

Flags were hoisted and public and private buildings were illuminated. Revellers in flag-draped cars thronged the Gulf Road on Thursday causing a bumper to bumper traffic jam

stretching from Salmiya to the old Souk. The jam continued until late in the night.

Every now and then young boys came out of their cars and danced the time away on the roads.

A fireworks display was held at night at the Flag Square.

The Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Sabah opened a festival on the National Day marking the return of Kuwaiti seafarers from a voyage of traditional pearl-diving and trade.

Thousands of jubilant Kuwaitis, some draped in the national flag participated in the folk dance festival at the seafarers' site on the seafarers' site.

In a statement, Sheikh Nasser pointed out that "celebrating the return of seafarers represents an important element in the history

of our forefathers."

The minister noted that the return of old Kuwaiti seafarers from pearl-diving and sea-trading was a traditionally happy occasion as the voyagers met their beloved family members and friends.

Voyage

He added that after a four-month voyage the seafarers used to bring back timber, goods and gifts for their families and friends.

Sheikh Nasser said he toured the seafarers' site where he saw old Kuwaiti marketplace modelled on the famous Souk Al Gharbiyya specially built for the occasion by the National Museum of Kuwait.

He pointed out that the Amir and the Crown Prince had given

instructions that the National Day celebrations should lay emphasis on revival of the Kuwaiti heritage.

He said the large public turnout at the various functions and festivities marking the National Day is a strong indication of their allegiance and attachment to their country.

Kuwait continued the National Day celebrations yesterday.

At the Flag Square Sheikh Nasser inaugurated the model of the old Safat Square. A village fair atmosphere prevailed with dancers, singers and peddlars reviving the old times, before Kuwait became a prosperous modern state.

Camels were there but in specially erected pens, so were the sheep, chickens, ducks, pigeons and parrots. Coffee pots

made in a traditional style and examples of bedouin weaving were on sale.

Gone was the specially prepared performance of patriotic poetry reciting and choreographed dancing of the previous day. What was left yesterday was the genuine stuff Kuwait has had before and will have after the celebrations.

It is its songs, music and dance, rather repetitive but pleasing to the ear and the eye.

The music produced on primitive instruments and the dance consisting of a series of steps repeated over and over is not a creation of an artistically minded group but emerged as a welcome respite to incessant toiling in an inhospitable environment. In fact one finds the rhythm quite catching with limbs

(Continued on Page 8)

Four killed in worst day of unrest as Shultz meets Israelis

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Feb 26, (Agencies): Four Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded in widespread riots in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip today as US Secretary of State George Shultz put a Middle East peace plan to Israel's divided leadership.

Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians yesterday.

The deaths — two by Army gunfire and two in disputed circumstances — raised to at least 72 an unofficial toll of Palestinians killed since an uprising in the territories began on Dec 9.

The Army said it was investigating the cause of each death. A wave of violence, called for by the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising," swept the occupied areas after Friday prayers.

Bombs

Demonstrators poured out of mosques and attacked troops with stones, bottles and petrol bombs, an Army spokeswoman said.

Despite a massive police and Army show of strength, demonstrations and clashes erupted in Arab East Jerusalem and virtually all the main towns in the occupied territories.

In Hebron, troops opened fire with live ammunition after tear gas and rubber bullets failed to disperse hundreds of protesters burning rocks and petrol bombs.

One Palestinian died and at least four were injured, the Army spokeswoman said. But a preliminary Army autopsy showed school teacher Fouad Ayub Shabawi was not shot and his body bore no marks of violence.

The Palestine Press Service (PPS) quoted hospital doctors as saying Shabawi died of suffocation caused by inhaling tear gas.

Clashes

Elsewhere in the West Bank, a 65-year-old woman was shot in the pelvis during disturbances in the village of Tubas, near Nablus, and died in the city's Al Itihad Hospital, doctors said by telephone.

The body of another Palestinian, 22-year-old Hassan Abu Khirani from the Arab refugee camp north of Hebron was taken to Bethlehem Hospital. The PPS said he was shot dead. The Army

said it was investigating.

In the Gaza Strip, there were clashes in the Jabalya refugee camp in which a 14-year-old youth, Iyad Al Ashkar, was killed. The Army removed his body from a UN health centre and said an autopsy showed he had been killed by a stone which hit his left temple.

The registers at two Gaza city hospitals showed at least 25 wounded Palestinians were admitted from Jabalya. Five had been shot and the others injured by rubber bullets or soldiers' clubs.

UN officials said unrest was reported in several other Gaza Strip refugee camps and the Army clamped a curfew on the Nur Al Shams refugee camp outside Tulkarm after disturbances.

The violence coincided with Shultz's five-day tour of Israel, Jordan, Syria and Egypt to present proposals, rejected by the PLO, for negotiations on limited self-rule in the occupied areas.

Reservations

Shultz and Shamir both described their 2 1/2 hour meeting as friendly. But the Israeli leader's spokesman made clear Shamir had voiced strong reservations about parts of the US plan.

"Shamir repeated in a very clear way his opposition to the whole thing of an international peace conference," spokesman Yossi Ahimeir told reporters.

He also said Israel would not negotiate under duress from Arab rioters in the streets.

"If we try to work under pressure, this will be interpreted by the PLO as a victory," Ahimeir quoted Shamir as telling Shultz.

Peres welcomed the US initiative, telling reporters: "I think he brought workable proposals and we have some workable proposals and for that reason we started to work."

An informed source quoted Shultz as telling Peres that the 1978 Israeli-Egyptian Camp David accords, which set out a timetable for Palestinian autonomy, were out of date.

"The framework of Camp David was good for that period but now we need a much more forceful and innovative

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

- صدر ضیاء کو بھارت کا دورہ
- کرکے کی پیش کش
- پاکستانی پارلیمنٹ کا اجلاس طلب کر لیا گیا
- پانامہ میں صدر کو گرفتار کر دیا گیا
- مقبوضہ علاقے میں اسرائیلی فائرنگ سے ۳ افراد ہلاک
- بنگلہ دیش میں پولیس کی فائرنگ سے ۳ ہلاک
- لاہور ٹائمز ○ سو فیصد

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light to moderate northwesterly wind and some clouds will appear.
State of sea: light to moderate
High water: 9.00 am, 11.30 pm
Low water: 4.00 am, 5.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.10 am
Sunset: 5.45 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 29°C 84°F
Ahmad: 18°C 64°F
Fadhla: 18°C 64°F
Maximum temperature expected:
Kuwait: 19°C 66°F
Ahmad: 17°C 63°F
Fadhla: 17°C 63°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 7°C 45°F
Ahmad: 10°C 50°F
Fadhla: 10°C 50°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 9 per cent
Ahmad: 51 per cent
Fadhla: 40 per cent
Minimum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 40 per cent
Ahmad: 50 per cent
Fadhla: 50 per cent

Afghan mujahedeen name 'head of state'

ISLAMABAD, Feb 26, (Reuters): The main Afghan rebel alliance has chosen a US-educated engineer as head of state in its proposed transitional government, rebel sources said yesterday.

The engineer, Ahmad Shah, 43, is the deputy leader of Ittehad-i-Islami, one of the seven Pakistani-based parties. The party, strongly supported by Saudi Arabia, is led by Abdurrahman Rasul Sayyaf.

Shah comes from the same tribe as Afghanistan's current President, Najibullah.

The mujahedeen alliance announced a blueprint for a transitional government to take over pending national elections, but did not name its candidates for the various posts.

The formula includes a supreme council of the seven party leaders and a 28-member cabinet, made up of 14 rebels, seven refugee representatives, and seven "Muslims now living in Afghanistan."

Replace

The head of state would be one of the cabinet members.

Shah, a Pashtun from the Ahmadzai tribe, is from the Kabul region. A speaker of Arabic, English, Pashtu and Dari, he took a master's degree in civil engineering in the United States and served as a professor at Riyadh's King Faisal University.

The seven-party alliance has said a neutral transitional government must replace the current Soviet-backed one in Kabul before an agreement on Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghan-

istan is signed at forthcoming UN-sponsored talks in Geneva.

Pakistan backs the rebel position and said the announcement of the blueprint on Tuesday was a positive step, but Moscow denounced it as an attempt to undermine the Geneva process.

Six of the seven alliance party leaders saw visiting US Under-Secretary of State Michael Armacost on Wednesday and told him Washington was facing diplomatic defeat, a rebel spokesman said.

"We told Armacost your policy on Afghanistan is wrong," he said by telephone from Peshawar in north-west Pakistan.

Impression

In Lahore, Gen. Zia-ul-Haq said that Pakistan has no basic disagreement with its ally US on an Afghan peace settlement.

"There is no basic disagreement between us and the (contrary) impression in this regard is based on propaganda," he told reporters after meeting Armacost.

Zia's comments came in the face of contradictory statements from US and Pakistani officials over the past few days on a neutral government, indicating a rift over Afghanistan.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has invited Zia to visit India to discuss Afghan peace efforts, an official spokesman said in New Delhi yesterday.

He said Rajiv telephoned Zia this week to extend the invitation but was still awaiting a response.

The prime minister's invitation coincided with the arrival in India of Armacost to brief Rajiv on the peace process.

India tests home-made missile

NEW DELHI, Feb 26, (UPI): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said India has fired an indigenous developed surface-to-surface missile, making it the fifth nation in the world to produce such a weapon.

Rajiv received a standing ovation in parliament when he announced the test launch of the "Prithvi" class missile from Sriharikota space centre in Andhra Pradesh state south of New Delhi.

He said the projectile flawlessly completed a 150-mile (250-km) flight and plunged into the Bay of Bengal, making India the fifth nation after the United States, the Soviet Union, China and France to have developed such a weapon.

"There was no foreign know-how or collaboration involved," said Rajiv. "This is an important technological achievement."

India is in the midst of its largest ever military build-up to meet a perceived threat from neighbours Pakistan and China, and bolster its position as a regional superpower of 780 million people, experts say.

Rajiv said the missiles would be supplied "in numbers" to the Indian military "purely for defensive purposes," but declared the items were capable of delivering "large payloads and warheads which could inflict heavy damage on enemy targets."

He gave no details as to what armament would be carried on a Prithvi — Hindi for "earth" — but said it had the best warhead-to-weight ratios and more advanced navigation and guidance systems than any comparable class of missile.

But defence experts were sceptical about its sophistication, saying it is similar in design to the Nato-designated Soviet Scud missile, first deployed in 1965 by Moscow. New Delhi's main arms supplier.

The analysts said the Indian model was about 35-feet (11-m) high, fuelled by liquid propellant, and could fire from a mobile launcher a 1,000-pound (450-kg) warhead up to 160 miles (270 km).

Queen richest of the rich in UK

LONDON, Feb 26, (Reuters): Newly-rich tycoons from industry, property and entertainment are elbowing most aristocratic old money aside in Britain's booming billionaire stakes.

But, Queen Elizabeth is comfortably ahead of the field as the holder of the country's biggest personal fortune. A survey says she has at least 20,000 millionaires in Britain.

Money magazine has discovered that only five members of the titled elite belong among the 20 richest Britons with wealth in excess of £250 million (\$440 million).

A survey in the March issue of Money named the 200 richest people in the country — seven of them billionaires — and put their collective worth at £26.5 billion (\$45 billion).

Paintings

They ranged from the Queen, who has estates, shareholdings, jewellery, race horses and paintings worth £3.34 billion (\$5.88 billion), to best-selling author Frederick Forsyth with £10 million (\$17.6 million), the minimum amount for inclusion.

Noting that millionaires tend to be a secretive lot, Money con-



Queen ... richest

ceded its list of people with at least £10 million was not exhaustive and said the jostle to join was growing. It estimated the number of Britons with fortunes in excess of the magic million mark at 20,000.

The Queen's fortune compares with the £14 billion (\$24.6 billion) wealth of the Sultan of Brunei, named as the world's richest man by Forbes magazine.

The Queen's heir, Prince Charles, is Britain's 14th richest man with £340 million (\$600 million).

Number two on the Money list was 92-year-old John Moores, founder of a football betting system and mail order business. He left school at the age of 14 and has amassed a fortune worth £1.7 billion (\$3 billion).

Soviet missiles roll out of E. Europe

EAST BERLIN, Feb 26, (Reuters): Soviet nuclear missiles have started to roll out of Eastern Europe before the superpower treaty eliminating them is ratified — a unilateral gesture described by Nato diplomats as a publicity stunt.

Snow-covered houses were decked with flags yesterday in the sleepy town of Bischofswerda, near Dresden, where foreign reporters watched crowds wave farewell at the railway station to a group of 69 soldiers and their charges — 27 missiles, launchers apparently complete with SS-12 shorter-range rockets.

Similar scenes were reported at Waren north of Berlin and in the Moravian town of Hradice in Czechoslovakia.

Ratification

East European officials say Moscow is withdrawing the 54 SS-12s at four East German bases and all 39 SS-12s from Hradice to encourage swift ratification of the US-Soviet treaty on intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) signed last December.

All the SS-12s are expected to be removed by mid-March. They can reach 500 to 1,000 km (300 to 600 miles).

"With this step we confirm how serious we are about the treaty," said Colonel Vladimir Yankovsky, commander of the Bischofswerda unit, at a farewell ceremony. He added that a similar gesture was expected from the West.

Destruction

But Nato diplomats said the Soviet move was aimed at scoring propaganda points and implied that a similar premature removal in the West was unlikely.

"The Soviets put these missiles there in the first place and if they

wish to make some goodwill gesture by unilaterally removing them so much the better," said a spokesman of Nato.

He said the situation in Western Europe, where Washington has Pershing-2 and cruise rockets based, was not comparable.

In Bischofswerda, Soviet officers said the trains with their tarpaulin-covered flat-bed trucks carrying launchers would head for Soviet destruction sites. The missiles would be kept there until treaty ratification.

Soldiers said they looked forward to returning to barracks in the Soviet republic of Georgia.

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

Numbers for Game No. 63 appear on page 2.

Obesity not linked to eating: study

NEW YORK, Feb 26, (Reuters):

Two new studies of obesity — one involving adults, the other infants — reinforce the theory that many people are fat because they don't burn energy as rapidly as other people, not because they eat more.

The studies, reported in the Feb 25 New England Journal of Medicine, say that energy expenditure seems to be the key influence on a person's long-term weight.

Fat people expend less energy, so the calories they eat are more likely to be transformed into extra weight.

For overweight babies, "our findings suggest that the most appropriate approach to preventing obesity in susceptible infants may be to increase their energy expenditure, rather than decrease (the amount of food they consume)," said Susan Roberts of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her colleagues, who tested infants of overweight mothers.

Infants

She found that the infants who became obese had bodies that expended nearly 21 per cent less energy than other babies.

The other study, by researchers at the National Institutes of Health office in Phoenix, Arizona, studied a group of American Indians and concluded that "a low rate of energy expenditure may contribute to the aggregation of obesity in families."

In that project, led by Eric Ravussin, the investigators found that volunteers with a slower metabolism were four times more likely to gain 16 pounds over a four-year period.

In an editorial, doctors Jules Hirsch and Rudolph L. Leibel of Rockefeller University in New York said the Ravussin results prove that the metabolic rate a person inherits influences whether a person is destined to be fat.

Crisis over dismissal of Noriega

Panama National Assembly sacks President

PANAMA CITY, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Panama's National Assembly sacked President Eric Arturo Delvalle after he demanded the dismissal of Army strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega who has come under strong US pressure to abandon politics.

Government ministers, citing an article of the constitution which empowers them to name or acting president, replaced Delvalle by Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma. Later Palma was sworn in.

Support

Delvalle said yesterday he fired Noriega for refusing to step down following allegations he was involved in drugs trafficking and other crimes.

But military officers rallied in support of Noriega, and the head of the National Assembly, Alberto Aleman Boyd, called a special legislative session to debate a resolution to sack Delvalle and Vice President Roderick Esquivel.

Although Delvalle was Panama's nominal head of state, Noriega, 50, has long been known as the real ruler of the country, which is strategically important because of its American-built canal linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Some 10,000 US troops are stationed in the canal zone.

Palma, addressing cheering legislators and some 200 supporters gathered in the assembly hall, condemned "a campaign of

lies" against Panama, and blamed "diplomatic, economic and propagandistic pressure" by the US State Department.

He also called on Washington to maintain normal relations with the Panamanian government and emphasised its commitment to protecting free transit of the Panama canal.

Delvalle said on television yesterday he "had no choice but to separate General Noriega" from his post as head of the Panama Defence Force (PDF).

Noriega was indicted by two US grand juries earlier this month on charges of drug trafficking and racketeering.

In addition, he has been the subject of extensive US congressional hearings that alleged he

turned Panama into a drug laundering haven and personally reaped millions of dollars in profits.

Pledged

Noriega has denied all drugs and racketeering charges.

In his speech to the assembly, Palma also pledged that foreign nationals living in Panama would be safe.

"We guarantee the security of all foreigners and their belongings in Panama, especially for US citizens," he said.

While the legislature debated the resolution to sack Delvalle, the former president remained under military guard with his family in his house in Panama City.

But the guard was later retired,

and Delvalle told reporters that he would call for an urgent meeting of the Organisation of American States in Washington to discuss the affair.

Spanish national radio reported that Delvalle called the assembly vote "a buffoon's opera" that would "isolate Panama diplomatically."

But he said he didn't expect any popular reaction to his dismissal because people were "afraid of Noriega."

Present

Palma, in his speech to the assembly, called for "participative democracy" and said elections scheduled for May 1989 would go ahead as planned.

Noriega was not present at any of the proceedings and military

officials would not comment on his whereabouts.

Boyd, in a statement opening the special session of the National Assembly, said the attempt to fire Noriega had "endangered the integrity, peace and security of the nation."

Delvalle, in his announcement earlier, said that he had ordered Noriega to resign and that he would be replaced by Col. Marcos Justine, the military Chief of Staff.

But Justine, speaking later on a military-run television station, rejected the call, saying Delvalle had "been under pressure from the United States" to fire Noriega.

"When I heard this offer, I rejected it immediately."

South Africa frees detained activists

CAPE TOWN, Feb 26, (Reuters):

South Africa released a number of detained black activists in the wake of its crackdown on the anti-apartheid opposition but immediately placed them under restriction.

Four leaders of anti-apartheid groups in Cape province were released yesterday after being held without trial for up to 14 months under a national state of emergency, civil rights lawyer Essa Moosa told Reuters today.

They were served with restriction orders barring them from speaking at political meetings and placing them under house arrest between 7 pm and 6 am, he said.

The four are Zolli Malindi, western Cape President of the United Democratic Front (UDF), his deputy Christmas Tinto, Roseberry Sooto, Vice-President of Cape Town Congress and Dorothy Zihlangu, President of the Federation of South African women.

Banned

Several other activists were believed to have been freed in other parts of the country, lawyers said. Government officials declined to give names or figures.

The white-led government virtually banned 17 anti-apartheid organisations on Wednesday, provoking condemnation from

around the world.

Leading activists, including the entire national executive of the UDF, South Africa's highest anti-apartheid movement, have been restricted.

Treasurer Azhar Cachalia became the last member of the UDF executive to be restricted when security police served him with an order today barring him from politics and from giving press interviews.

Defended

President P.W. Botha defended the crackdown at a political rally last night, saying it was intended to "prevent the oppression of a communist dictatorship."

Moosa predicted all emergency detainees could soon be released. He believed the government had a dual strategy to suppress the black opposition while freeing detainees, who have become a political embarrassment.

"They had to be released sooner or later, there's no point in keeping them in prison," Moosa said.

Britain summoned the South African ambassador yesterday and rebuked him over Pretoria's latest clampdown on black political activity, saying the move would drive opponents underground and encourage violence.

2 die, 50 hurt in Dhaka election violence

DHAKA, Feb 26, (Reuters):

Police opened fire on opposition activists tossing home-made bombs in southern Bangladesh today, killing two people and injuring 50 less than a week before parliamentary elections, police said.

They said about 500 opposition activists attacked police after they tried to arrest a man disrupting an election rally by a ruling Jatiya Party candidate outside Kibuna, about 140 km (85 miles) south-west of Dhaka.

The activists threw bombs packed with metal fragments,

injuring 14 officers, a police official said. Sixteen people were arrested, he said.

Vowed

Among the dead was a 50-year-old woman passer-by, he said.

The main opposition parties have vowed to boycott parliamentary elections and disrupt the vote on March 3 but President Hossain Mohammad Ershad has said he will call out the Army to ensure peaceful voting.

A candidate was shot dead during a campaign rally on Tues-

day in south-western town of Jessore.

Bangladesh's two main opposition leaders issued an appeal for officials to refuse to serve as election officers.

Shelved

"We are asking all civil and military officers, school teachers and men of other professions to stay out of any kind of election duties," Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia said.

The so-called election, tailored to perpetuate authority of an autocratic regime, will take

the country to the brink of a civil war," they said in a statement.

It was the first statement issued jointly by the two leaders since they shelved their differences and launched a campaign last November to force Ershad to resign.

The two leaders have called for a 36-hour general strike, the 25th in last four months, beginning on March 3.

More than 150 people were killed and at least 8,000 injured in the village council election violence across the country early this month.

Reagan to visit Moscow in May

Start treaty may be ready for summit

MOSCOW, Feb 26, (Reuters):

President Reagan will visit the Soviet Union for a full-scale summit with Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the last week of May, according to a senior Soviet official.

The official expressed complete Soviet confidence that an epoch-making Strategic Arms Reduction (Star) Treaty would be ready for signing by the two leaders at their fourth meeting in less than three years.

He gave a strong positive picture of the superpower relationship, arguing that the Soviet Union and the United States had moved away from hostility towards mutual trust and cooperation.

Speaking to foreign reporters yesterday on condition he not be identified or quoted directly, the official said the Reagan visit

would last about a week and would not be a mirror image of the Kremlin leader's trip to Washington last December.

Reagan would travel outside Moscow — as did then-President Richard Nixon on two visits to the Soviet Union in 1972 and 1974 — to any part of the country he wished, according to the official.

He said Gorbachev, whom Reagan had wanted to take across the United States and to his own ranch in California, had too full a calendar to stay more than three days in Washington.

But the Kremlin chief said at the time he would like to see other parts of the country on a later US visit, which would now almost certainly be the guest of a new president after Reagan leaves office in January next year.

If the official's programme is confirmed, diplomats in Mos-

cow said, it would be an ironic if triumphant near-fiasco to eight years in the White House for the man who termed the Soviet Union at the start of his presidency as an "evil empire."

The senior Soviet official, in an off-the-record briefing believed unprecedented in six decades of ultra-secrecy, said by Moscow on its real foreign policy thinking, said he felt the change had come because both sides were tired of conflict.

Implicitly accepting that the Kremlin itself bore some blame for past tension, he said he felt an impulse had come from ordinary people in the two countries who yearned for their leaders to end confrontation.

And, echoing Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze at a Moscow news conference after talks with US Secretary of State George Shultz last weekend, the

official said the two powers were now together on a totally new plane of their relationship.

Shevardnadze, who will be in Washington on March 23 and 24 for further summit preparations, said the Soviet Union and the United States "are now on the same platform, if perhaps at different levels."

Trust

The official suggested the superpowers, long suspicious of each other's every move, were now moving fast towards a relationship of mutual trust and recognition that they had an overwhelming common interest in maintaining world peace.

In a further recognition, that Moscow was not, as he said, both recognised that propaganda or taking cheap pleasure in scoring points against each other around the world brought no advantage to either.

Iraq denies Iranian raid

BAGHDAD, Feb 26, (Reuters):

Iraq yesterday denied Tehran reports that Iranian irregulars had launched an attack near Kirkuk in Iraqi Kurdistan.

"This is another Iranian lie..." the head of the Defence Ministry political department, Abduljabbar Mohsen said. "The situation in the region is completely calm."

Tebrao Radio, reported earlier that Iranian irregular forces had launched a three-pronged attack near Kirkuk.

Iraq said its jets blasted a railway bridge in northwestern Iran

today to disrupt imports by its Gulf war enemy.

A military spokesman said the aircraft "strongly pounded the strategic and vital" bridge near the town of Qotur at 2.30 pm (1130 GMT).

The bridge, a few miles from the Turkish border, has been attacked at least twice before in the 7-1/2-year-old Iran-Iraq war with the aim of disrupting Iranian imports via Turkey.

The Iraqi spokesman said the bridge was used to feed Iran's war efforts and warned Tehran that such raids would continue unless it ended the war.

Senegalese polls

DAKAR, Feb 26, (Reuters):

Senegalese voters will choose among four candidates, a rare luxury in Africa, when they elect their president on Sunday.

President Abdou Diouf, 52, is virtually certain to win another five-year term.

Princess Anne

ENTEBBE, Feb 26, (AP):

Britain's Princess Anne planted a tree at State House today before leaving for Mozambique, ending the first visit to Uganda by a member of Britain's royal family in 23 years.

Singer Slim dies

PARIS, Feb 26, (Reuters):

Memphis Slim, the American blues singer who lived in Paris for more than two decades, has died in hospital at the age of 73, his family announced today.

One of the most successful of modern bluesmen, Slim was the author of the famous "Everyday I have the Blues" which was later popularised by Count Basie's orchestra.

The singer and piano player, whose real name was Peter Chalmers, died in Paris's Necker Hospital on Wednesday. The cause of death was not immediately available.

Hundreds killed in S.African raids: Angola

HARARE, Feb 26, (Reuters):

Angola said South African planes and troops killed hundreds of people in raids on two southern towns yesterday.

In Pretoria, a spokesman for South African military headquarters dismissed the Angolan charge as propaganda.

"We regret to announce the death of hundreds of citizens, including women, old people and children who lived in the bombed areas," said a statement by Angola's Defence Ministry, read on state radio Luanda last night.

The broadcast, monitored by the BBC, said South African forces hit the towns of Lubango and Cuito Cuanavale, about 300 km (180 miles) inside Angola.

Siege

Cuito Cuanavale has been the focal point of fighting between Angolan and Cuban forces on one side and South African troops and right-wing Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rebels on the other.

The town has been under siege for the past month. Its air base is used as a springboard for Angolan attacks on Unita positions.

The Defence Ministry statement said clashes were going on between Angolan and South African forces in provinces along the Angolan-Namibian border.

A spokesman at South Africa's defence headquarters referred questions about the Angolan charge to a South African statement last Saturday which "placed on record that wild Angolan claims in recent weeks were blatant propaganda."

"This (latest) claim falls into the safe category," the spokesman added.

Intervention

South Africa has drawn a veil of secrecy over the conduct of its latest military intervention in Angola's 13-year civil war.

Its troops crossed the border last September to bolster Unita guerrillas Pretoria said were facing defeat by Angolan troops, who are backed by Cuban soldiers and Soviet advisers.

South Africa has since reported at least 35 of its troops killed in Angola, despite an announcement last year that it was withdrawing the force.

Unita, which also receives military aid from the United States, has held virtual control of some areas of southern Angola for years. Pretoria says the rebels' defeat would threaten its security and that of neighbouring Namibia, which it administers in defiance of UN resolutions.

Four killed in worst day of unrest ...

(Continued from Page 1)

approach," he quoted Shultz as saying.

Three Israeli newspapers, in near identical reports, said today that Shultz was proposing a freeze on Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, the withdrawal of the Israeli Army from West Bank and Gaza cities and its replacement by a joint Jordanian-Palestinian police force and administration.

They said Shultz was offering three alternative frameworks for the talks — a fully fledged UN-sponsored peace conference, a meeting of Middle Eastern states under joint US-Soviet auspices or a mixture of the two.

The PPS identified yesterday's victims as West Bank residents Sami Al Dayeh, 14, of Nahlus and Isam Saeed Aho Khalifa, 18, of Jenin refugee camp.

An Army spokesman said soldiers opened fire in the Jenin camp to quell "massive disturbances," killing one person and wounding another.

Beating

British television showed four soldiers beating young Arabs in the West Bank, kicking them as they crouched on the ground and pounding them with rocks.

The commentator said it took the soldiers 40 minutes to break the youths' arms. The Arabs were then led to a truck to go to hospital. Their arms were limp and their faces full of blood.

Soldiers arrested 100 Palestinians in Khabatayeh village yesterday suspected of lynching an Israeli collaborator and destroyed the houses of two villagers suspected of hanging him from an electricity pylon, military sources said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nasser's son

BELGRADE, Feb 26, (Reuters): Khaled Abdel Nasser, the eldest son of Egypt's late President who is facing the death penalty in his native land, is in Yugoslavia as a tourist with an Egyptian diplomatic passport, the Foreign Ministry said today.

His state prosecutor last week demanded the death penalty for Nasser, 38, the son of General Gamal Abdel Nasser, and 10 others, on charges of direct involvement in forming and financing a group called "Egypt's Revolution" which has killed two Israeli diplomats and wounded two US diplomats since 1984.

Wrong day

LONDON, Feb 26, (AP): The Daily Telegraph got off on the wrong foot on Wednesday, with the paper's masthead misidentifying the day as Thursday. The mistake reportedly caused quite some confusion through the land.

The Telegraph reported on Thursday's front page that one reader complained he had travelled to Birmingham a day too soon after being misled by Wednesday's paper. "Someone else went to the doctor a day early, and some elderly readers went to post offices to collect pensions that normally come on Thursday."

North Yemen polls

SANA'A, North Yemen, Feb 26, (AP): Preachers called on Muslims attending mosques in North Yemen today, to register as voters as the country prepared for its first free parliamentary elections.

Voting is not compulsory, but men and women over the age of 18 have been urged to register in recent weeks.

Boat people

RANG ISLAND, Thailand, Feb 26 (UPI): More than 500 Vietnamese boat people today waited fearfully under makeshift tents on remote Thai islands for the next development step in what was supposed to have been a safe, easy escape from Vietnam.

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Gorbachev appeals for calm

Million protest in Armenia

MOSCOW, Feb 26, (AP): Mikhail Gorbachev made an unprecedented public appeal today for calm in the Republic of Armenia, but more than one million people ignored him and continued to demonstrate in the streets, a witness said.

For the past five days, thousands of people have thronged the centre of Yerevan, Armenia's capital, to demand that a region of the neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh, whose population is more than three-quarters Armenian, be made part of Armenia.

The Communist Party central committee, which Gorbachev presides over as party general secretary, rejected that call earlier this month, sparking street protests in Yerevan whose reported size is without precedent in the 70 years of Soviet history.

Sergei Grigoryants, an Armenian dissident, said a speech from the Soviet leader was read over Armenian state-run radio by Vladimir Dolgikh, a non-voting member of the ruling politburo.

"Gorbachev called on the Armenian people to be calm, and said there were a lot of unresolved problems, including that of Nagorno-Karabakh, and that a patient approach is required," Grigoryants told the Associated Press by telephone from Yerevan.

The 15-minute speech also was broadcast over loudspeakers at Yerevan airport and elsewhere in the city, said Grigoryants, a Moscow resident who arrived in Armenia earlier today. He said the speech would be shown later on Armenian television.

Moscow-based media, including the official Tass news agency, which are customarily quick to report Gorbachev's public remarks, carried no immediate mention of his appeal to Armenians.

Although Grigoryants said the 56-year-old Soviet leader's speech was more conciliatory and soothing than "combative" remarks made Wednesday night in Yerevan by Dolgikh, he said it failed to sway the protesters.

"The numbers in the streets have grown to more than one million today," Grigoryants

said. "Columns are marching along the major streets, and there is a sea of banners."

Another witness, Paruyr Ayrikyan, an Armenian activist, said some of the banners read "Karabakh is Armenia" and "Karabakh is a test of perestroika," the Russian-language word for Gorbachev's drive for economic and social reconstruction.

Strike
Grigoryants said factories, scientific institutes and the Armenian telegraph agency had gone on strike in sympathy with the protest, and that Armenians who had served with the Soviet Army in Afghanistan and were among the protesters were throwing away their medals and their Communist Party membership cards.

The protests in Yerevan, now in their fifth straight day, constitute a clear challenge to Gorbachev's campaign for greater democratisation and openness. The Soviet leader's personal appeal showed how seriously the Kremlin regards the situation.

Gorbachev, in a speech to the party central committee on Nov

18, said relations among the more than 100 ethnic groups that live in the Soviet Union are the country's greatest problem.

But he has before intervened publicly in a dispute, even when rioting broke out on Dec 17-18, 1986 in the Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan in which three people were killed and 200 injured.

That unrest was sparked by the appointment of an ethnic Russian to replace a Kazakh as local party chief.

Troops
Ayrikyan said that before midnight Thursday, 1,500 Soviet paratroopers had been flown into Yerevan's airport, and had seen ferried in a 40-vehicle motorcade to the Dynamo sports hall and other locations around the republic's capital.

"They came with full equipment, including clubs," Ayrikyan said. He said the paratroopers were told by officers aboard their transport planes that an "uprising for national independence" was under way in Armenia, but would not say how he obtained the information.

Former Egyptian premier dies

CAIRO, Feb 26, (Reuters): Former Egyptian Prime Minister Mamdouh Salem, who headed four governments under President Anwar Sadat in the 1970s, died in London yesterday aged 70, the Middle East News Agency reported.

Salem went to London on Wednesday for medical treatment, the agency said. It did not state the cause of death.

Salem, who was single, was Prime Minister from April 1975 to September 1978. Since then, he held a largely honorary post as an assistant to the presidency.

A career police officer who served as governor of Assiut and Alexandria, he joined the cabinet in 1971 as Interior Minister when he helped Sadat to crush a plot to oust him.

As Interior Minister, he was responsible for modernising Egypt's security forces and abolishing exit visas for Egyptians.

He also cracked down on communist organisations and gradually removed all leftists from key positions. He supported Sadat's decision to expel about 15,000 Soviet military experts in 1972.

Pakistan accused of troops buildup

NEW DELHI, Feb 26, (Reuters): Pakistan has deployed a light infantry unit on the strategic Siachen glacier along its border with India and may also put US-made tactical helicopters there, Indian Defence Minister K.C. Pant claimed yesterday.

Pant told parliament Pakistani troops who attacked Indian positions along with the glacier last September and October were recruiting local people to assist in their military operations.

He said India had received information that a representative of the US plane maker Boeing recently went to Pakistan to conduct a demonstration of helicopters that could be deployed on the glacier.

The glacier, rising 6,000 metres, straddles the frontline between Indian and Pakistan-controlled sectors of the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistani troops had been "repulsed with heavy casualties" when they attacked Indian positions last year, he boasted. "Our troops fight valiantly and there is no question of our soldiers being driven out."

"That area of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and will remain an integral part of India," Pant said, adding that India would take "all appropriate measures" to ensure India's security interests on the glacier.

Roh sworn in as President

Seoul announces amnesty

SEOUL, Feb 26, (AP): President Roh Tae-woo approved a sweeping amnesty today for 1,731 political dissidents and labour activists, which the government said demonstrated his determination to build a democratic government.

Roh, who took office Thursday, approves the freeing from prison or restoration of civil rights to the dissidents after meeting with his cabinet.

The government said the measure was designed to build public trust.

"The government wants all the people to join in building democracy," said Information Minister Chung Han-Mo after announcing the measure.

The political and labour cases were included in an amnesty for 7,234 people, most of them convicted of criminal offenses.

It was not immediately clear how many of the dissidents were still in prison, but it appeared many had already been released in earlier amnesties. Those still in prison were to be freed Saturday.

But several imprisoned prominent dissident leaders, including Kim Kun-Tae and Chang Ki-Pyo, were not to be released because of their role in violent protests, according to Korean news reports.

Chung said the amnesty did not include dissidents who had



Roh: new era

committed serious crimes such as murder or arson as part of political protests. He hailed the measure as "courageous" and said it would boost democratic reconciliation.

Meanwhile, police found a time bomb today at a USis building in a provincial city and arrested a dissident student in Seoul who planted the explosive, a police spokesman said.

Police in Kwangju, an opposition stronghold 270 km south of Seoul, located the home-made explosive in a bookcase in a library of the USis building in the city, the spokesman said.

The explosive was connected to a red-coloured round-shaped alarm clock four inches (10 cm) in diameter. It apparently failed to go off because the clock stopped before the set time, the spokesman said.

Kwangju police acted on a tipoff from Seoul authorities who got the confession about the time bomb from one of five radical students under investigation for seizing the USis library in Seoul for two hours Wednesday, the spokesman said.

Police believed it was an incendiary time bomb but were waiting for military ammunition experts to arrive to determine its exact nature, the spokesman said.

Seoul police said Ahn Rae-Sung, 24, arrested in Seoul today, placed the bomb in the USis library in Kwangju. He had been wanted in connection with the seizure of the Seoul USis facility.

The group, calling themselves a "Death Squad for National Salvation," have told police that they took their action to oppose the inauguration of President Roh Tae-woo and protest US support for what they called a dictatorship.

Thousands of students and other dissidents staged street protest actions in Seoul and eight provincial cities Thursday after Roh took an oath of office for a five-year term.

Tibet monks hold protest festival

LHASA, Feb 26, (Reuters): Rebellious monks at one of Tibet's largest monasteries held an "alternative" prayer festival today after boycotting the official event in protest against their treatment by the Chinese authorities.

More than 200 monks at Drepung monastery, five km outside Lhasa, squatted in ranks in their own temple and chanted Buddhist scriptures after refusing to join the annual Mon Lam festival at Jokhang Temple in the heart of the city.

"We will not go to Lhasa. It is not good," one young monk said in broken English during a break for yak butter tea.

Tibetan sources said the monks regarded the official ceremonies in Lhasa as a showcase event designed to show the authorities' commitment to religious freedom. They cited police surveillance of the festival as one reason for the boycott.

At least six people were killed in Tibet last October in protests against rule by Beijing, which sent in troops in 1950 and ended government by a theocratic Buddhist elite.

After the takeover Tibet's

spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, fled into exile with tens of thousands of supporters and the region was radically reformed on communist lines.

Lamas at this year's official festival, which began yesterday, said that 80 Drepung monks had turned up, but one Tibetan source said the number was only 15.

One monk at the alternative ceremony said it mirrored the closed Mon Lam festival held at the monastery before Chinese authorities lifted a 20-year ban on the event in 1980.

Drepung's chantmaster Ngawang Dorjuch, whose booming base voice is a loved tradition at the Mon Lam rites, only agreed to join the official ceremony after persistent persuasion by local government officials, Tibetan sources said.

An ideological "work group" has been stationed at the hillside Drepung monastery since October's protests.

At least six people were killed in Tibet last October in protests against rule by Beijing, which sent in troops in 1950 and ended government by a theocratic Buddhist elite.

After the takeover Tibet's

Sudanese rebels defecting

KHARTOUM, Feb 26, (AP): A number of southern rebels have defected to the government and many more are thinking of dropping out of the five-year civil war and going back to their homes, a military source claimed.

A news release by an unnamed armed forces general command source said defectors who crossed over to Army lines spoke of "a good number" of rebels considering quitting the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

The source did not give the number of rebels who already have abandoned the SPLA.

"A number of rebels defected from the SPLA and turned themselves in to the government army," the statement said. "The Army units have been instructed to welcome any defector from the SPLA."

The SPLA took up arms in 1983 against the Khartoum government in the north, fighting for greater autonomy and economic reforms.

Jayewardene offers pardon to rebels

Jayewardene offers pardon to rebels

COLOMBO, Feb 26, (AP): President Junius Jayewardene on Thursday offered Tamil rebels and Sinhalese extremists a new amnesty if they surrender their weapons and support efforts to halt ethnic violence in Sri Lanka.

"Whoever they may be, wherever they are, I invite them to lay down their arms, support the peace accord and join other political parties in the humane and democratic process," Jayewardene told the opening session of parliament.

The Tamil Tigers, the most powerful of the Tamil rebel groups, have been battling more than 45,000 Indian troops deployed in Sri Lanka to enforce an Indian-brokered peace accord signed in July.

The accord was to end the Tamils' nearly 5-year-old guerrilla war for an independent

homeland in the North and East of the island nation.

Sinhalese radicals, many of them members of the outlawed People's Liberation Front, have rejected the peace pact, saying it makes too many concessions to the minority Tamils.

Sinhalese extremists have killed at least 150 members of Jayewardene's ruling United National Party and other supporters of the accord since it was signed July 29.

Amnesty
Tamils, who are mostly Hindus, comprise 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people. The majority Sinhalese, who are mostly Buddhists, control the government and Army.

Jayewardene said in his speech: "I am prepared to grant all of them amnesty contained in the accord and lift proscriptions on their parties."

J N Dixit, India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, told a news conference he welcomed Jayewardene's amnesty offer, calling it "very conciliatory and very statesman-like."

"We regard this as a sincere effort by the President to bring peace in this country," he said. Dixit repeated India's willingness to talk to the Tamil rebels if they first lay down their arms. He said the main Tigers leader, Vellupillai Prabhakaran, should contact New Delhi if he wants to negotiate.

India has become involved because the 60 million ethnic Tamils who live in southern India are sympathetic to the Sri Lankan cause.

Thursday's opening parliamentary session was boycotted by the entire opposition, except for one member of the Sri Lanka Communist Party,

to underscore the opposition's demand for a general election in Sri Lanka.

The last parliament election was held in 1977. The current legislature was extended under emergency rules.

Jayewardene praised the Indian peacekeeping troops in his country, saying: "While Sri Lankans have died to preserve the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of their homeland, Indian soldiers, far away from their homes and loved ones, are sacrificing their lives to save our country from being destroyed by terrorism."

More than 350 Indian soldiers have died in the fighting against the Tigers since October.

On Wednesday, a mine buried by Tamil rebels killed at least 13 Indian troops and wounded three others near Morawewa village in Eastern Trincomalee



The girlfriend and relatives of an Israeli soldier cry at the funeral after he was killed when a tank was blown up as it ran over a mine in southern Lebanon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Antibody neutralising AIDS virus found

WASHINGTON, Feb 26, (AP): Researchers have developed a synthetic peptide that triggers in rabbits an antibody which neutralises the AIDS virus, but they said other breakthroughs are needed before the technique can be used in humans.

Mark Gurney, an assistant professor at the University of Chicago, said he synthesised several short peptides, a compound of amino acids, that were identical in some ways to a portion of the envelope that surrounds the human immune virus, known as HIV. The HIV is the virus that causes AIDS or acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Gurney said the peptides then were placed into laboratory rabbits. The immune system of the rabbits produced three antibodies against the peptides.

Researchers then exposed these antibodies to several strains of the HIV virus in test tubes. Gurney said the HIV virus was neutralised, or prevented from spreading to other cells.

The experiment used a peptide that was a chemical mimic of a portion of the HIV envelope that remains unchanged, Gurney said. Other parts of the virus change frequently. This unchanging portion of the HIV virus does not elicit an antibody response when it is attached to the whole virus for reasons that scientists do not understand, said Gurney.

But the fact that a peptide imitating part of the HIV virus is able to trigger antibodies may be important in combating the fatal disease.

Arah and Western doctors will meet in Cairo next week to discuss ways to combat AIDS in the Middle East, where conservative morality has kept the fatal disease from reaching epidemic proportions.

Specialists from 60 countries are expected for Egypt's first international conference on AIDS from March 3-5, at which issues will include prevention and control through official policy, education, religious influence and law.

Eight hurt as Amal hunts for Higgins

BEIRUT, Feb 26, (UPI): Pro-Iranian gunmen in a speeding car hurled a hand grenade at a checkpoint near the village of Jibceet in southern Lebanon, wounding seven men of the Amal militia, police said today.

The militiamen at the road-block retaliated by firing submachineguns into the vehicle, seriously wounding one of the car's occupants who was later identified as Ali Kansou, a member of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, police said.

Inter-Shiite tensions have been escalating in the Jibceet area, 60 km southeast of Beirut, since Amal encircled the Hezbollah stronghold three days ago, suspecting that US Marine Lt Col. William Higgins is being held hostage there.

Protest
A statement by Amal said the assailants fled. "Following the incident, Amal militiamen set up more checkpoints in the area, and stormed houses, looking for the attackers," the statement said.

The incident occurred hours

after thousands of angry pro-Iranian zealots demonstrated in front of the bombed-out US Embassy in West Beirut, demanding death for Higgins and protesting US Secretary of State George Shultz's visit to Israel.

Daoud said in a statement in Tyre that he had information about a plan to kidnap more foreigners employed by UN organisations, the peacekeeping Unifil force and the International Red Cross in the south.

"We possess accurate security information that a 25-man band specialised in hostage-taking and equipped with cars and arms arrived in the south on a mission to abduct more foreigners," Daoud said.

Amal's leader, Nabih Berri, whose militia has mounted a search for Higgins, said his men will take stringent security measures to foil future kidnappings.

"Amal is taking stricter security precautions to head off any future attempts to kidnap foreigners in the south," Berri said in a telephone interview.

Islamic states urged to help avoid war

Aquino warns Muslim rebels

ZAMBOANGA, Feb 26, (Reuters): President Corazon Aquino called on Islamic states today to help avoid rekindling a Muslim separatist rebellion in the southern Philippines.

"We will seek peace but we will fight if we must," Aquino said in a speech in Zamboanga on the main southern island of Mindanao.

"We urge (Islamic nations) to refrain from any action that will encourage any extremist activity," she said.

Aquino's trip follows efforts by the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) to win support from the powerful Organisation of Islamic Conference for their 15-year-old fight for an independent homeland in Mindanao.

Rebel spokesmen have said they expect the organisation to grant special membership to the

MNLF, which would give it the status of a government-in-exile. Aquino said the Philippines could use the help of Islamic nations in bringing peace to Mindanao where most of the country's seven million Muslims live.

In northern and central Mindanao, military and town officials reported MNLF troops movements, but southern command chief Major-General Cesar Tapia said the rebels were posturing and told reporters he expected no new fighting.

Blast
Meanwhile, a bomb blast at a packed open-air festival in Manila injured about 15 people late on Thursday but failed to stop the dancing as Filipinos celebrated the second anniversary of their "people power" revolution.

No-one claimed responsibility for the explosion but military intelligence had said earlier extremist factions might try to disrupt the day-long festivities.

Witnesses said the bomb exploded during a fireworks display about 100 metres behind a stage where a rock band was playing. Police said no-one was seriously injured.

A soldier at the scene said there was only momentary panic on a street lit mainly by disco lights and the fireworks.

Tens of thousands of people in the area carried on dancing, celebrating the toppling of Ferdinand Marcos and the installation of Corazon Aquino as President in February 1986.

Earlier in the day, Aquino and most of her senior government and military officials had been near the site of the blast, the only violence to mar the government-sponsored celebrations.

Egyptian parties plan march into Israel

CAIRO, Feb 26, (Reuters): Egypt's political parties plan to hold a mass Arab peace march into Israel within three months in support of Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, an organiser said.

Lotfi El-Kholi, head of the "Committee for the Consolidation of the Palestinian Uprising," said they hoped a million people from Arab countries would take part.

He told Reuters he would fly to Tunis to meet Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and arrange for deported Palestinians to join the march.

Israel has expelled about 2,200 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip since capturing the territories in the 1967 Middle East war, he said.

The Egyptian parties announced their plan following failure of a PLO attempt this month to send deported Palestinians back to Israel by ship. An explosion crippled the PLO's intended "ship of return" in Cyprus.

Kholi, a journalist and leading member of the small leftist Unionist Progressive Party, said he would also go to Algeria, Morocco and Iraq to promote the march. Other politicians would go to other Arab countries.

Determination
Asked what the marchers would do if Israel stopped them crossing the border, Kholi said they would press on regardless.

"This time, it is the (Arab) people and not armies that will cross the frontiers and we are determined to cross under any circumstances without firing a bullet," he said.

Arab Armies have fought four wars with Israel since the Jewish state was founded in 1948.

"We will tell the whole world we are not going to let the Palestinians down this time, as we (Arabs) did in 1982," Kholi said, referring to the year when Israel invaded Lebanon to oust PLO commanders.

He said the Egyptian parties planned that marchers would go into Israel simultaneously from Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon at a date still to be fixed.

"We pray to God that the Syrian and Jordanian governments will open their borders for us to cross. We have been assured that Egypt will not object," he said.

Kholi said he hoped Israeli peace activists would join the marchers in Israel. His committee would urge Israel to put the Palestinians under international protection.

He said Egypt, the most populous Arab state and the only one pledged to peace with Israel, would contribute one-third of the marchers.

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National Day celebrations in foreign countries

AMMAN, Feb 26, (Kuna): Top Jordanian government officials attended a reception hosted last night by Kuwait's Ambassador Ibrahim Jassim Al Baho to mark the 27th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day.

Attendance included chairman of the Jordanian Council of Notables, King Hussein's closest aide Prince Rashed Bin Zeid, Parliament Deputy Speaker and Speaker of the Palestine National Council (parliament in exile) Abdul Humid Al Sayeh as well as representatives of Palestinian groups in Amman.

Amman Television, meanwhile, screened a special programme on the occasion reviewing Kuwait's development and highlighting its support for Arab national issues, chiefly the Palestinian cause.

Progressing

In Damascus, the Syrian leadership and media have highly commended the wise leadership and development of Kuwait and the pan-Arab policies of the Arab Gulf state as it celebrates the 27th National Day.

The Syrian Television ran a special 30-minute programme last night on Kuwait which the commentator lauded as aspiring to foster the bonds of brotherhood with all the Arab countries and gear their concerted efforts against all threats and challenges.

The state-owned TV said Syrian-Kuwaiti relations are progressing year after year to set an example of how ties between the Arab states should be like in all fields of cooperation.

The Syrian press on Friday carried lengthy features and editorial comments on Kuwait on the occasion which was celebrated last night by Kuwait ambassador Ahmed Abdul Aziz Al Jaem in a reception attended by Syrian ministers, political party leaders including leaders of the 4-party National Progressive Front sharing the government with the Arab Baath Party.

In New York, Kuwait celebrated its 27th National Day on Thursday at a reception hosted by Ambassador Mohammad A. Abulhasan.

The party, held at the elegantly-built Kuwaiti mission just a few steps from the United Nations complex in midtown Manhattan, was attended by hundreds of diplomats and American friends of Kuwait.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar dropped in to congratulate the Kuwaiti envoy, and so did the representatives of most of the UN's 159 members.

Traditional

In New Delhi, Indian President R. Venkataraman and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi have sent messages of greetings to HH the Amir of Kuwait, and HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, on the occasion of the National Day.

The President in his message said "On the occasion of the National Day of Kuwait, I have much pleasure in conveying to your highness, on behalf of the government and people of India, warmest felicitations and best wishes."

"There exists a tradition of

close cooperation between India and Kuwait in various fields and I am confident that these ties of friendship will continue to strengthen in the years to come," he said.

The Prime Minister's message said: "On behalf of the government and people of India as well as on my own behalf, I have pleasure in sending warm greetings on the occasion of the National Day of your country."

In Islamabad, President Zia-ul-Haq, Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo and Mrs Shafiq Ziaul Haq attended a reception held at the Kuwaiti embassy here to celebrate the National Day of Kuwait.

They congratulated Kuwaiti Ambassador Qasim Omer Al Yagout and Mrs Badria Yagout on the auspicious occasion.

Others who attended the function included ministers, members of Parliament, high-ranking government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and prominent citizens.

The Kuwaiti Ambassador Qasim Omer Al Yagout said here last night that the State of Kuwait, like the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, was very proud of its Islamic identity. He was addressing the people of Pakistan over Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television.

In Dhaka, the ambassador of Kuwait held a reception to celebrate the National Day.

The reception held here by Ambassador Ahmad Mursheed Al Suleiman was attended among others by Bangladesh Religious Affairs Minister Abdul Mannan, former president Khandaker Mustaqeem, major opposition leader Mrs Khaleida Zia and a former foreign minister Dr Kamal Hossain.

President Hussein Mobammad Ershad in a message on the occasion greeted HH the Amir of Kuwait and the people of the brotherly Muslim state.

In Kuala Lumpur, more than 600 guests, including diplomats, Malaysian senior government officials, Islamic leaders, educationists and businessmen attended an official reception to mark Kuwait's 27th National Day.

They were received on arrival by the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Malaysia Essa Abdul Rahman Al Essa and Mrs Essa.

In Tokyo, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdul Muhsein Al Haroun has celebrated the 27th National Day of Kuwait amid rejoicing and congratulations from Japanese and other friends of Kuwait.

More than 600 guests, led by high-ranking Japanese officials, Arab and foreign diplomats and representatives of the business community here, attended a reception hosted by Al Haroun at Hotel New Otani, which was bedecked with Kuwaiti flags and photos of HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah.

In London, the Kuwaiti Ambassador Ghazi Al Rayes, Thursday evening hosted a reception marking the 27th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day.

All members of the Kuwaiti embassy and representatives of

the Kuwaiti community in Britain took part in the celebration.

In Geneva, Kuwait's ambassador to the United Nations and its specialised agencies hosted a reception to mark Kuwait's National Day.

Among the guests invited by the envoy Dr Salem Jaber Al Ahmad were heads and senior officials of the international organisations here, and representatives of the diplomatic and business communities.

Prosperity

In Bonn, Kuwaiti Ambassador to West Germany Khaled Al Baitain marked the 27th anniversary of the National Day with a fabulous reception at the La Redout Palace attended by over 600 Arab and foreign personalities.

The Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi, who is currently visiting here, attended the reception and extended his best wishes to the government and people of Kuwait praying to the Almighty to favour them with continued prosperity and welfare.

In Bucharest, Romanian national and regional press publicised the congratulatory telegram president, Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania sent to the Amir of Kuwait.

Editorial notes presented economic realities in Kuwait and showed that relations of mutual co-operation have been established between Romania and Kuwait.

In Prague, Czechoslovak Socialist Party daily Svobodne Slovo praised Czechoslovak-Kuwaiti relations in an article on the National Day of Kuwait.

The two countries' economic and political co-operation has been intensive for more than two decades, the paper said and listed high-level visits both ways in the 70's and 80's. Czechoslovak-Kuwaiti economic and scientific-technological co-operation and trade have had an upward trend, the paper said, adding Czechoslovakia exports to Kuwait in such traditional commodities as draperies and woollen clothing, as well as water tanks and water storage reservoirs have also been on the increase.

In Washington, Kuwait's Ambassador to the United States Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah hosted a big reception yesterday night to mark Kuwait's National Day celebrations.

More than 600 people attended the reception.

Top Reagan administration officials from the White House, State Department, Pentagon, and other government departments attended in addition to many Congressmen, members of the diplomatic corps, Arab ambassadors, newsmen, Kuwaiti nationals and students studying in the US.

In Brasilia, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Brazil gave a reception yesterday to mark the National Day.

The reception was attended by several ministers, political leaders and a large number of prominent citizens and diplomats.

A film on the social life in Kuwait was also shown on the television here.



Kuwait's Minister of Public Health Dr Abdul Razzak (left) is presented a commemorative gift by Anwar Al Nouri, the Education Minister.

Self-sufficiency in medicines

Lack of specialists main obstacle

ACCORDING to a recent statistical report the annual cost of international pharmaceutical consumption is estimated at approximately \$5.4 billion and Arab countries consume more than a quarter of the total quantity of medical drugs produced. But the 40-year-old Arab pharmaceutical industry has only been able to meet 15 per cent of the Arab world's demand or \$300 million worth of pharmaceuticals consumed.

The main obstacle to the realisation of a self-sufficient Arab pharmaceutical industry, according to a local newspaper, is the lack of specialists and professional personnel. Other problems include lack of educational planning taking into account Arab needs for medical supplies and drugs and the acceptance of dependence on imported medicines.

Strategies

The Director General of the Arab Pharmaceutical Establishment in Iraq Tahseen Ahmed Jihad said that the Arab Higher Committee for Pharmaceutical Affairs was one of the most important committees of the Council of Arab Health Ministers because of its work in developing a self-sufficient Arab pharmaceutical industry.

He said that at the committee's 9th session meetings held in Kuwait recently the committee had discussed a strategy for pharmaceutical industries and studied recommendations regarding such strategies adopted at the Arab Union of Medical and Pharmaceutical Producers Symposium which met in Amman last December.

Jihad added that the commit-

tee was currently conducting studies aimed at determining the best way to overcome current obstacles. A symposium, to be held in October, for representatives of Arab pharmaceutical companies and health ministers, will discuss the formulation of a basis for a unified Arab marketing policy to include anti-narcotics legislation.

The Director General of Pharmacies and Medical Supplies from the Yemen Arab Republic Mohammad Mohsen Ali said that since its inception the Arab pharmaceutical industries had made little, but significant progress. He stressed the need for a policy that would protect rational pharmaceutical production against competitive imported medicines.

Coordination

Arab pharmaceutical authorities complained that marketing remains a problem, which to be solved, requires the cooperation of pharmaceutical and medical companies. The reluctance of international pharmaceutical companies to transfer their expertise to the Arab world was also cited as a problem faced by Arab pharmaceutical companies.

Ali remarked that the lack of coordination among Arab producers of medical and pharmaceutical supplies was a primary cause of the unfavourable competition and duplication.

One authority said the Arab pharmaceutical companies produce drugs and medicines under licence from their original manufacturers and stressed the need to encourage these industries to produce original drugs and medications.

University honours Abdul Razzak

THE Rector of Kuwait University, Dr Abdul Mohsen Al Abdul Razzak hosted a dinner in honour of Dr Abdul Razzak Al Abdul Razzak on the occasion of his appointment as Minister of Public Health.

The new health minister, spoke briefly to those gathered, thanking the education minister and friends for the occasion.

The dinner was attended by the Education Minister and Acting Minister of Higher Education Anwar Al Nouri, the Secretary General of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) and a number of university officials.

Al Nouri praised the efforts of Dr Al Abdul Razzak and his previous work at the university.

IICA moves to new offices

YOUSEF Al Hajji, the Chairman of the International Islamic Charity Authority, announced that the authority had moved its offices from the Al Awwal Complex to Dirwazat Abdul Razzak oo Ahmad Al Jaber Street. He added that the old office was not large enough to accommodate the authorities increasing number of activities and projects.

According to the basic charter of the authority, special departments for investment, information and foreign contacts are required which necessitated the additional office space, Al Hajji said.

In the new premises, the authority will be able to expand its activities, Al Hajji added, saying that the Municipality had agreed to grant the authority land on which to build permanent facilities in the Mishref area.

ROYAL COURT

Congratulations

THE chairman of the Higher Committee for Celebrating the National Day and the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmad yesterday cabled HH the Amir of Kuwait congratulating him on the glorious occasion.

Sheikh Nasser expressed in the cable best felicitations and wishes of health and happiness to the Amir as well as wishes of continuous advancement and prosperity for the country.

He highlighted the spirit of harmony and compassion among members of the Kuwaiti family, lauding the people's unity and rallying behind leadership of the Amir.

Similar cables by the committee's chairman were addressed to HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad.

KUWAIT PRESS DIGEST

Newspapers hail Kuwait's achievements

KUWAITI newspapers editorially commented on the 27th anniversary of the National Day of Kuwait, hailing the achievements realised by Kuwait and hoping for more in the future.

Al Watan said over the past quarter of a century, Kuwait has assumed a prominent role on the international, Islamic and Arab levels.

It explained saying that Kuwait has a prominent role during the stage of division and challenges and was firm in its support to the unity and safety of the Arab nation and its fateful causes.

Al Watan stressed that the Kuwaiti people has given the evidence on its ability to shoulder its responsibility, and added that on the anniversary of the National Day, the Kuwaiti people is more determined to work and build for the sake of a free and developed homeland.

Referring to the critical circumstances surrounding the Gulf region, the paper said Kuwait was able to face big challenges, and its people has proven that it is united and mature and aware of its national responsibilities in defending the country and its achievements.

Al Qabas daily newspaper said the occasion should urge us to question ourselves about what we have offered to the country over the past year.

The newspaper said the best that we can give to Kuwait is to keep away from personal differences and to work hand in hand for peace and stability for the country.

Al Anba daily newspaper pointed out the confidence the Kuwaiti people has in its political leadership and said this has satisfied the people that their future will be brighter.

On the other hand, the paper noted, the confidence of the leader in its people was great and indicating the full integration between the leadership and the people.

It concluded saying that the unified faith of the Kuwaiti people is the best guarantee for progress to be realised and for the structure of the country to be more solid and stronger with the passing days.

Al Rai Al Am daily recalled the achievements of late Amir, Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem, during his rule the independence of Kuwait was obtained.

The paper said Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem was a distinguished man who has right now to be remembered by every sincere and patriotic citizen.

It recalled that Sheikh Abdullah Al Salem had managed to take Kuwait from the stage of pre-independence to the era of independence during which the constitution, democracy and modernisation were introduced.

GULF PRESS

Shultz' visit to Mideast a fruitless mission

UNITED Arab Emirates newspapers continued to editorialise on US Secretary of State George Shultz's visit to the Middle East confirming that it is a fruitless mission aimed mainly at suppressing the Palestinian uprising.

Al Ithad newspaper of Abu Dhabi said "Shultz arrived on Thursday in occupied Palestine with his bad luck trailing behind him since old indications point to the failure of his mission."

The newspaper added Shultz's visit aims of "going ahead with an initiative which is nothing but a scheme that meets the Israeli demands for direct negotiations that would result in a weak autonomy rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

The newspaper went on to say "Shultz and others who rotate around the Zionist orbit should realise that the Palestinians are one people under a common command namely the PLO, and if they seek other negotiators on their behalf then they have the wrong address."

Al Bayan newspaper of Dubai said "in accordance with the American unwavering policy Shultz's current tour is aimed at quenching the fire of the heroic uprising, therefore Arab officials should realise, while meeting Shultz, the American policy towards the Arab-Israeli conflict is merely a reflection of the views of the Zionist administration."

Al Wihda newspaper of Abu Dhabi wondered "what are the real reasons behind Shultz's tour. Is it a suppression of the uprising or a blessing to the Zionist repressive measures?"

"The only answer to Shultz is what was clearly and firmly declared by the inhabitants of the occupied territories to continue struggling until victory is achieved and a boycott of Shultz's suspicious visit," the newspaper said.

"The Palestinians have confirmed that the American solution is the same old Zionist scheme aimed mainly at wasting more of the legitimate rights of the Arab nation," the newspaper added.

Kuwait contributes \$2m more to New York Islamic centre

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 26, (Kuna): Muslim ambassadors and members of New York's Islamic community expressed gratitude and appreciation for Kuwait's additional \$2 million contribution toward the cost of the city's first Islamic Cultural Centre.

As chairman of the centre's board of trustees, Kuwaiti Ambassador Mohammad Abulhasan informed the board of the additional donation which brings Kuwait's official contribution to close to seven million dollars.

Abulhasan, who has been the driving force behind the project during the past few years, stressed, however, that available funds to complete the first phase did not include the minaret, and he again made a strong appeal to the Islamic world for generous donations.

Message

In addition to Kuwait's official contributions, private Kuwaiti citizens and commercial entities have made available around \$600,000.

The other major contributors are Saudi Arabia, \$1.5 million,

Libya \$1.3 million, and Qatar \$360,000.

The meeting of the board of trustees, which includes all Muslim ambassadors and members of the Islamic community, was addressed by the envoys of Senegal, Gambia, Turkey, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Democratic Yemen.

The diplomats extended their governments' gratitude and appreciation to HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince, for the additional contribution which they said reflected the "profound attachment of Kuwait to the Islamic world."

The meeting asked chairman Abulhasan to send a message of thanks to the Kuwaiti people for this generosity.

The initial phase of the Islamic Cultural Centre was expected to be completed by March of 1989. The total cost of the centre was estimated at \$25 million.

The groundbreaking ceremony last May was attended by Ambassador Abulhasan, New York Mayor Edward I Koch and many Muslim diplomats and community leaders.

More than 500 people had taken part in the ceremony at the 80,000-square-foot construction site that covers a whole city block.

The first prayer was held on September 21 in a makeshift tent, with Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo attending.

When ultimately completed, the project will consist of a mosque, a school, a library, a minaret and living quarters for the Imam. It will serve the city's 400,000 Muslims.

In 1966 Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Libya jointly paid two million dollars for the lot. It is worth some \$15 million today.

Redesigned by the architectural firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, which took over from Aly S Dadas, the mosque combines traditional Islamic and modern styles.

The main floor will contain enough space for 1,200 male worshippers, and space on the balcony for 150 women. The underground will contain a large meeting hall and space for bazaar-type shops.

Ezzat Ibrahim to visit Egypt

IRAQI Vice-President of the Revolutionary Command Council, Ezzat Ibrahim is due to pay a four-day visit to Egypt to discuss with Egyptian Premier Dr Atef Sidki means of promoting bilateral relations in most fields.

According to a Kuwaiti news-

paper, the discussions will also tackle the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Mideast region.

President Hosni Mubarak is scheduled to meet with Ezzat Ibrahim and the accompanying delegation in the course of their stay in Egypt, the paper noted.



● An officer of the Interior Ministry, 1st Lieut. Rabie Al Mutairi, gave a lecture on security and traffic awareness at the parallel education school. He spoke about the common mistakes by motorists and also about the responsibility of preserving and protecting public property.

Soviets urged to speed up efforts to end Iraq-Iran war

MOSCOW, Feb 26, (Kuna): Kuwait's Ambassador to the Soviet Union, Abdul Mohsen Yousef Al Duaijbas called on the Soviet Union to use its international leverage to speed up the efforts toward an end to the Iraq-Iran war.

Duaij, who was speaking on the Soviet television last night on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of Kuwait's National Day, said the Gulf region should be an area of peace and stability.

The ambassador hoped that the recent initiative launched by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to end the crisis in Afghanistan would succeed.

Speaking about developments in the occupied Arab territories, Duaij said the atrocities Israel is

committing and the killing of armless Palestinians remind us of the Nazi deeds.

On the Soviet-Kuwaiti relations, the ambassador said they are based on mutual confidence and that viewpoints are identical concerning many issues relating to bilateral relations and ties with other countries.

Coexistence

Meanwhile, President of Soviet Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Arab countries Mikhail Kondakov said "Kuwait's consistent policy of positive neutrality earned it respect of many countries."

He added that a function devoted to the Kuwaiti National Day that Kuwait's foreign policy course is based on the principles

of peaceful coexistence, support for the peoples right to independent development.

Kondakov further noted that bilateral ties between the Soviet Union and Kuwait develop in various areas under the principles of equality, non-interference in each other's internal affairs and mutual interests.

Duaij who also spoke at the function said the Kuwaiti-Soviet relations set an example of constructive cooperation and real friendship between the two countries.

The ambassador also said these relations develop and deepen to the benefit of the two peoples and added that it can be said that they stood the test of time and entered the stage of confidence.

New Muslims

RIYADH, Feb 26, (IGNA): Fifty-three men and women of different nationalities embraced Islam in Saudi Arabia at the office of the general-director of the scientific researches, guidance and dawa department, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Abdullah Bin Baz.

Arms embargo on Iran likely in few weeks: Mellor

BAGHDAD, Feb. 26, (AP): A British official said yesterday a UN arms embargo against Iran for ignoring a Security Council ceasefire resolution is likely to be taken up in a few weeks.

But David Mellor, a Minister of State at the British Foreign Office, said he was sceptical whether such a resolution would be effective enough to bring about an immediate end to the 7 1/2-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

He told reporters in Baghdad that discussions are underway at the United Nations to get a unanimous agreement among the five permanent members of the Security Council to move to a follow-up resolution imposing an arms embargo on Iran for ignoring resolution 598, which demands a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Lengthy

"We are coordinating with the five toward the follow-up resolution to impose an arms embargo against the party which refused to comply with the 598 resolution," Mellor said in a press conference at the British ambas-

sador's residence in Baghdad.

"It is a lengthy process but I hope in the end we will be able to obtain a resolution imposing an arms embargo on Iran, maybe in a few weeks," he said.

Iraq has accepted resolution 598 provided Iran endorses it. Iran has not accepted nor rejected the measure, adopted unanimously by the Security Council July 20.

Realistic

The United States and Britain, both permanent Security Council members, and Iraq have been launching a campaign at the United Nations to move to another resolution that would punish the party that fails to accept resolution 598.

But the Soviet Union, another permanent council member, argued that Iran should be given more time to respond to the decision.

The other permanent council members are China and France. Mellor said he was "realistic" that the forthcoming resolution may not end the war, "but it will be an indication that the world

community is not ready to give up efforts which it began with resolution 598 to end the war."

"It will also be an indication to the non-compliant party, which we say is Iran, that the world community is going to take action to ensure that its resolutions are not flouted," he added.

Mellor had lengthy discussions with President Saddam Hussein on Wednesday night on the Gulf war and efforts made by the United Nations to move toward an arms embargo resolution against Iran.

During his visit, Mellor had two rounds of talks with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and met Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan.

He also discussed commercial relations and other economic issues with the Trade Ministry's undersecretary.

Working

Mellor described the current Iraqi-British relations as "very good at the moment," and said his talks with Iraqi officials were "very warm" and they enhance bilateral relations. Meanwhile, US Ambassador

Vernon Walters said that the five permanent members of the Security Council are working on a resolution to impose an arms embargo against Iran in its war with Iraq.

"The US is urgently seeking passage of this resolution" intended to persuade Iran to comply with a 7-month-old council demand for an immediate ceasefire and troop withdrawal, Walters said.

"The five permanent members are now actively working" on an embargo, he said in testimony before members of the US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee in Washington. His statement was released by the US mission to the United Nations.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, meanwhile, conferred Thursday with Iraqi Ambassador Ismat Taha Kitani, after meeting the day before with Iranian acting Ambassador Mohammad Ja'afar Mahallati.

Perez de Cuellar held two rounds of talks with Iranian and Iraqi envoys in an effort to end the war.

Oman encourages wives of expatriates to work

MUSCAT, Feb. 26, (AP): Oman is now encouraging the wives of expatriates to work in a bid to fill gaps in the labour force, the Times of Oman reported yesterday.

The report is a diversion from the usual practice in the Gulf sultanate as well as in neighbouring countries where expatriates, especially hand labourers, are not allowed to bring in their wives, let alone allow them to work.

In the instances where it was possible for wives to work in Oman, those who entered on a housewife visa would have to wait about a year before reapplying for a work visa.

Like the rest of the region, Oman suffers extensive budget deficits and the one projected for 1988 is 252 million rials (650

million dollars). Expatriates who poured in by the hundreds of thousands to help the area with its development plans after the oil heydays of the 1970's are being retrenched.

One-third of the sultanate's labour force, or an estimated 100,000 have left in the past two years in the wake of the oil price slump.

The paper quoted director-general of labour Ahmed Al Raja b as saying that more working wives would reduce pressure on the economy.

He announced new regulations which will speed up the switch from expatriate housewife visa to working visa to facilitate wives' recruitment.

"They can fill posts needing foreigners so there will be no need to bring in more expatriates from

abroad," the paper quoted Al Raja b as saying.

"Expatriate wives working will also probably increase productivity. Expatriate families will have financial and personal stability, which is an important factor in productivity and is of concern to us," Al Raja b said.

Oman has made the most rapid strides in opening up careers for women, according to Western diplomats. In recent months, the first Omani woman was named to the high-ranking government job of undersecretary.

Omani women, some of whom were veiled, are to be found working throughout the public and private sector in ministries, the police force, schools, hospitals, banks, hotels and airline offices. They are paid the same as men.

Violation of construction regulations

AN OFFICIAL source at Kuwait Municipality said the announcement by a private sector company that apartments were available at Surra area was considered a violation of the construction regulations for the area.

He said the houses were meant to be private houses and not meant for investment purposes.

He said it was the municipality's duty to warn people about such violations committed by private companies and to prevent people falling into such traps.

He said that people could obtain the proper information from the municipality.

Sheikh Khalifa for Pakistan

ABU DHABI, Feb. 26, (Kuna): The Crown Prince of the Abu Dhabi Emirate, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Thursday left here for Pakistan on a private visit.

He was seen off at the Abu Dhabi airport by several senior officials of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Ambassador of Pakistan to UAE Agha Akbar Shah.

The Crown Prince is accompanied by the chairman of the board of directors of the Abu Dhabi National Petroleum Company, Sheikh Tehoun Bin Mohamed.

Sixty-three companies take part in industrial exhibition

By Lima Al Khalafawi

SIXTY-THREE local companies are displaying an impressive range of products at the Kuwait Industries Exhibition being held at the Mishrif international fair-ground.

The exhibition was opened on Tuesday by the Commerce and Industry Minister Faisal Al Khaleel.

He hoped the exhibition would attract international attention to Kuwait's industries and open new markets for them.

He said the Finance Ministry and the Commerce and Industry Ministry were preparing a study on promoting local industries and it would lay out policies to serve the goal of industrial progress.

Al Khaleel appealed to local

GCC foreign ministers to meet next month

DUBAI, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Foreign Ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council will meet in Riyadh next month to discuss the Gulf war and the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories, Al-Bayan newspaper reported yesterday.

It said the March 15 meeting would focus on implementing a decision taken at the December GCC summit to back the uprising and the Iran-Iraq war, where fighting has been at a low ebb for several months.

Meanwhile a GCC official in Riyadh was quoted as denying the group — comprising Saudi

Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — had offered to meet Iranian officials.

"No one has offered Iran a meeting between GCC officials and Iranian officials on any level and statements by (Iran) are not based on truth," the unnamed official told the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

On January 10 the official UAE news agency Wam reported that Saif Said, head of the GCC department at the UAE Foreign Ministry, had flown to Tehran.

Wam said he carried a message from UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rasheed Abdullah for Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati about a GCC-Iran dialogue "with a view to defusing tension in the Gulf and ending the Iran-Iraq war."

Fatal fall
A 14-year-old pupil Ahmad Qasab died from injuries he sustained while getting off his school bus in the Hawalli area last week. A Kuwaiti daily reported that the bus driver closed the bus door before the child was clear, trapping the child's legs in the door. The boy was killed instantly when the bus started moving and the boys beat him the pavement. The driver has been reported for investigation.

Iran to hold naval manoeuvres

NICOSIA, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Iran said today it would hold large naval manoeuvres in the northern Indian Ocean in the near future.

The Iranian news agency, Irna, received in Cyprus, quoted Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hussein Malekzadegan as saying the manoeuvres would take place early in the Iranian new year which begins next month.

All ships, aircraft, hovercraft, marines and commandos would take part in the manoeuvres, to be staged in international waters to hone skills needed to counter any foreign aggression, he said.

The admiral told naval commanders after a six-day meeting that the Navy had made outstanding progress in repairing and operating its missiles as well as manufacturing advanced weapons to be used in future operations.

Irna said "Revolutionary Guards had started training in the firing of surface-to-surface missiles and that the country was now mass producing its own missiles."

Relief convoy arrives in Lebanon

MASNA, The Lebanese-Syrian Borders, Feb. 26, (Kuna): The fourth and last convoy of Kuwait aid for the Lebanese people arrived at the border check-point of Masna.

The convoy of 240 trucks, loaded with foodstuff, clothes, medicines and stationery in addition to 30 buses for school children was received by the mayor of Bekaa area Salim Jadoun who represents acting Lebanese Premier Dr Salim Al Hoss.

Sheikh Mubarak Faisal Al Sabah, the representative of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait and Kuwait's Ambassador in Damascus Ahmed Abdul Aziz Al Jasssem and the embassy officials supervised the delivery of the convoy.

The convoy then headed for Saad Nayeel area in the eastern Bekaa where the goods were unloaded into the warehouses of Al Hariri Foundation.

Sheikh Mubarak Al Jasssem and a Lebanese committee headed by Dr Hoss will distribute the medical aid and milk to the hospitals in the Bekaa area later today.

Book exhibition

SULAIMAN Al Khulafai, a member of Kuwait Writers Society, announced that the society will hold its third book exhibit from Saturday, Feb. 27, to March 31. Al Khulafai, who is the director of the exhibit, said the exhibit, to be patronised by the well-known Kuwaiti poet Ahmad Al Adwani, would offer books for sale at 25 per cent discount.

Prizes will also be awarded for the best Arabic language, human sciences and social sciences books, besides, and the embassies of Iraq, Algeria, Egypt and the PLO have been invited to display books on the Arab literature about war.

Al Khulafai added that 12 local publication houses will participate in the exhibit in addition to Kuwait's Information Ministry and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science.

The exhibit will be open from 8 am to 1 pm and from 4 to 8 pm at the Kuwait Writers Society Building.



John Smith hugs his wife Jo after his arrival at Heathrow airport. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bishara winds up Washington visit

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, (Kuna): Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Abdullah Bishara was winding up his visit to Washington today, describing his talks with top Reagan administration officials and US Congressmen as successful.

Bishara, after a five-day visit, told Kuna he was here on a "good-will mission" on behalf of the GCC states aimed at finding ways of ending the eight-year-old war between Iran and Iraq.

Convinced

Bishara said he had extensive discussions with National Security Adviser Colin Powell on Thursday at the White House and reviewed the prospects for peace in the Gulf conflict, the US Naval presence, and efforts being exerted at the United Nations aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement of the war.

During his visit, Bishara also met with Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Armitage, As-

istant Secretary of State for the Near East Richard Murphy, and a big number of members of Congress who are on the House Foreign Relations Committee. He also made a series of speeches here, including one at a closed session with Gulf experts at the Brookings Institution here Friday.

Bishara told Kuna he was convinced that a solution to the Iran-Iraq war will be found by the end of 1988. He also said he was confident that a second resolution calling for an arms embargo against Iran will be adopted by the Security Council before the end of this month.

The Secretary General expressed satisfaction that the GCC states have succeeded in establishing a dialogue with Iran over the last few months, saying this has helped ease the crisis slightly.

Bishara is expected to fly to New York to meet with the Secretary General of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar on Monday.

UN chief resumes contacts

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has resumed contacts with Iran and Iraq in an effort to end their war, but with no sign of early progress, his spokesman said yesterday.

Spokesman Francois Giuliani also said Perez de Cuellar was completing consultations on the conflict with members of the UN Security Council, which issued a demand for a ceasefire last July.

Asked if the secretary-general might invite the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq to come to New

York for further talks, Giuliani said this was "not in the cards for the time being."

He said a principal reason for Perez de Cuellar's resumption of contacts was that he was on a tour of Africa for much of this month and felt the need to review the Gulf situation with interested parties on his return here.

The Gulf war and possible further steps that might be taken by the Security Council were understood to be among the subjects up for discussion at the council's monthly lunch on Thursday, given this time by Lieutenant General Vernon Walters of the United States, who holds the rotating council presidency.

He will be succeeded for March by Dragoslav Pejic of Yugoslavia.

Iranians tell Navy not to worry

MANAMA, Feb. 26, (AP): An Iranian warship promised yesterday not to "worry" a US Navy warship escorting a convoy of refuelled tankers toward the Strait of Hormuz, according to monitored radio traffic.

The group of vessels was off the United Arab Emirates of Ras Al Khaimah when the Iranian ship, bearing the number L51, approached to within about five miles.

"Do not interfere with my convoy's transit," said an American voice on the radio. It was not clear whether it came from the missile destroyer Chandler or the missile frigate McCluskey, the two escorting warships.

"We will obey the rules of the road, and will not worry you," replied the Iranians, according to journalists who overheard the exchange from a helicopter.

The convoy, the 13th of the year, included the 81,723-ton Surf City, the 79,999-ton Ocean King, and the 46,723-ton Gas King. It was exiting the Gulf through the Hormuz passage late Thursday.

Kfas to honour top graduates

THE Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science will honour outstanding graduates of Kuwait University, the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and those completing their Secondary School Certificate at an awards ceremony on March 12.

The foundation will recognise a total of 115 students with outstanding graduates from Kuwait University receiving KD750 each, graduates from the authority KD600 and those completing their Secondary School Certificate KD500. Honoured graduates from other institutes will be given KD300.

Iraq releases jailed Briton

BAGHDAD, Feb. 26, (Agencies): British businessman John Smith, imprisoned for life on a charge of bribing Iraqi officials, was released from jail on Thursday after he was pardoned by President Saddam Hussein, a British government official said.

David Mellor, a junior British Minister who held talks with Hussein in Baghdad said: "The British government very much welcome this warm indication of good will towards the British people which is very much appreciated."

Earlier, a British embassy official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Iraqi President issued the pardon on Wednesday, in response to a representation made by Mellor during a meeting Wednesday night.

The embassy official quoted Mellor as saying he was "really delighted to see Smith go back to his family and I think the move will boost bilateral relations."

Espionage

Smith, 43, was working as a salesman for British car sales agency Hestair Dennis when he was arrested in 1979 while talking with an Iraqi official in a park.

He was later convicted of bribing officials. At the time he was also accused of "economic espionage" but it was not clear whether he was ever formally charged or convicted on such a charge.

Saudi aid to Palestinians more than \$385m

TUNIS, Feb. 26, (AP): Saudi Arabia has provided more than \$385 million in aid to Palestinians living in the Israeli occupied territories since 1979, and said yesterday the support will continue.

In a statement published in Tunis newspapers, the Saudi chancellery said that in lending support, Saudi Arabia "acts on a national and Islamic duty."

Saudi support committees working through Feb. 21 have collected about 1.2 million dollars so far this year, destined to help the resistance in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the statement said. It did not provide details.

A Saudi spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, paid homage to Kuwait and Iraq for their "famine aid to families of

Smith was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1980. The Iraqi officials accused of being involved with him were tried and sentenced to death.

They were executed according to an Iraqi law that prohibits receiving bribes from foreign businessmen or providing them with information related to the state.

Smith, who has two children, was imprisoned with Iraqi inmates in the main prison in Baghdad. He received regular visits from his wife. The embassy official said Smith became friendly with other inmates and learned Arabic.

Smith arrived in Britain on Friday (to a tearful reunion with his family but refused to speak about the bribery charges).

Smith bled back his tears as he ran towards his wife and two daughters at Heathrow airport after arriving from Baghdad. Smith thanked Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for her efforts on his behalf and said conditions in the Baghdad prison were very good.

"My day-to-day routine was very much a do-it-yourself life and now I'm home I think I'll make someone a good wife. We cooked and washed and I used to take exercise regularly every morning."

Smith said he had learned to speak Arabic while in prison and would not mind returning to Iraq.

martyned Palestinians," and added that Saudi Arabia will continue to provide support to the PLO and the Palestinian people in their "battle for freedom and dignity."

A Saudi Arabian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said his country's support amounted to about 43 million dollars a year over the last nine years.

In addition, the government of Riyadh last week furnished 14.2 million dollars to support the resistance "in this historic phase of heroic Palestinian combat, the diplomat added.

Another 20 million dollars has been given to universities, schools and hospitals in the occupied territories, the diplomat added.

Filali in UAE holds talks

ABU DHABI, Feb. 26, (Kuna): The United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan yesterday received a message from King Hassan II of Morocco particularly dealing with the situation in the Maghreb region, latest developments in the Arab and the Muslim worlds and matters of bilateral interest between the two friendly Arab states.

The message was verbally conveyed to President Sheikh Zayed by the visiting Moroccan Minister for External Affairs and Cooperation, Dr Abdul Latif Al Filali when he called on the UAE

head of state. Filali is currently on a visit to the Arabian Gulf states to acquaint himself with the developments taking place in this strategic region.

He is due to leave here on a similar visit to Oman tomorrow evening.

During his stay here, Filali is holding a series of meetings with UAE officials discussing with them matters of bilateral and international importance including the ongoing Iran-Iraq war and efforts being made to put an end to the eight-year old Gulf conflict.

Gulf camel riders head for the Seoul Olympics

MANAMA, Feb. 26, (UPI): Even while the Calgary Winter Olympics were under way in frigid Canada, camel riders in the sun-drenched Gulf prepared to set off for a warmer competition in Korea — riding their camels.

Saleh Al Shammari, 30, and his cousin Amer, plan to complete the 10,000-mile journey from Qatar to Seoul on the beasts tradition calls "ships of the desert."

Their 6-month camel trek, scheduled to begin any day now, will take them across the snow-peaked Himalayas, endless deserts and dense forests.

The cousins and their four camels intend to travel overland across the United Arab Emirates and Muscat, then by ship to Karachi, Pakistan, then overland again through India, Bangladesh, Burma and China, then by ship across the Yellow Sea to Korea and the final phase of the journey.

Tradition

To prepare themselves, the two Arabs from the tiny Gulf state of Qatar successfully crossed North Africa on camels last year, riding from Oman to Morocco.

By reaching Korea in time for Seoul's September Summer Games, the Arab adventures say they hope to put an end to Western scoffing at camels — and have some fun on the way.

"I am not seeking fame or fortune for myself," Saleh said in an interview. "I am doing these things to show the world the great Arab tradition and value of the camel."

"Our message to the world is to show the true capability of the

camel, and to put an end to the Western view that it is an unmodern means of transport."

The message is aimed at Arabs as much as Westerners, however. Many desert nomads have long since abandoned the camel in favour of jeeps and trucks.

Proved

The Qataris said their camels proved their worth more than once during the difficult North African journey.

"We had reached the village of Al Sekhna, about 30 miles from the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra, when three ferocious wolves attacked us," Saleh said. "We were only carrying traditional daggers and swords and had no way to defend ourselves — when an amazing thing happened."

"Our camels came to the rescue, shielding us from the attack for over 15 minutes until the pack gave up and went elsewhere for their dinner. The camels actually saved our lives."

Crossing the Sinai desert in Egypt, the riders faced another unexpected deadly bazaar — mines.

"The ground was littered with Israeli mines left in the desert when Israeli troops withdrew from the area in 1972," Saleh said.

Saved

"Scattered around were skeletal remains of arms and legs, torn from the bodies of unfortunate Sinai bedouins who had stumbled across the explosives."

"Luckily for us, the world had exposed most of the mines, so we were able to pass through the area without injury."

The two men said they also

came close to death in the Libyan desert when they ran out of water. A passing shepherd saved their lives by filling their water skins.

They said they ate once a day — the traditional Arab diet of bread, dates, coffee and tea. They baked bread over a log fire, slept four hours at a time and took it in turns to guide the caravan while the other rested.

"Our camels were able to travel 5 miles an hour, so each day we travelled about 75 miles in 30 hours," Saleh said.

To entertain themselves the two men would race each other. "The winner was proclaimed king of the desert for the day, and the loser had to feed the camels, start the fire and prepare our food," he said.

Track

The cousins said their North Africa journey re-lived the days when "the Islamic word and culture was spread across the world — through the only possible means — the 'ship of the desert'."

The trek followed the track of a 14th century Arab adventurer, Ibn Battuta, a Dubai-based expert said.

"Born in Tangiers in 1304, Battuta devoted 30 years of his life to travel," Eman Al Bak said.

Battuta wandered "as far as Kilwa on the East African coast to the Volga Basin, eastward to Sumatra and China and across Northwest Africa to the river Niger before finally returning to Morocco."

"In Seoul," Saleh said, "I will represent every young Arab, and my camels will represent the proud history, heritage and tradition of our race."

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NATIONALISM is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind — Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1879-1955).

Afghan talks

Prospects for peace remain clouded

By Hanns Neuerbourg

GENEVA, (AP): Negotiations on an end to the Afghan war resume here in a week, amid widespread hopes the conflict can finally be ended. But prospects for success in the talks remain clouded — particularly over who will govern Afghanistan in the future.

US Secretary of State George Shultz ended talks in Moscow this week with a note of optimism on Afghanistan, but complex issues must still be resolved before an end to fighting in one of the most murderous conflicts since World War II.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev sent hopes soaring when he pledged Moscow will withdraw its estimated 115,000 troops within 10 months, starting May 15, provided Pakistan and Afghanistan reach a peace settlement in the United Nations-sponsored Geneva talks by March 15. Pakistan, Afghanistan's neighbour, has brought Afghan refugees and Western points of view into the negotiations, along with its own political and security interests.

With talks scheduled to be resumed March 2, this would leave just 13 days to tie up a package of agreements to end nine years of fighting — believed by some to have claimed more than a million lives.

Pullout
Gorbachev has said the start of the pullout could have even sooner if the settlement is completed earlier. But he has failed to say when the withdrawal would start if the March 15 deadline is not met. However, Shultz has said in Moscow he has "not the slightest doubt" that the Soviet leader is determined to bring home his troops.

After a 20-day shuttle between Kabul and Islamabad, UN mediator Diego Cordovez reported early this month that there was "virtual agreement" on the timetable of the Soviet withdrawal.

The United States and Pakistan still would prefer to give the Soviets less than 10 months to leave. But the timetable is no longer considered to be a critical obstacle to a settlement.

In almost six years of negotiations, accords have already been reached on non-interference by outsiders in a post-war Afghanistan and on the principles of return of 3.5 million Afghans now sheltered by Pakistan — the largest concentration of refugees in the world.

For protection of tankers in the Gulf

Major US companies turn to British help

By Nabila Megall

MANAMA, (AP): Major US oil companies doing regular business with Saudi Arabia are turning to Britain for protection of their tankers against Iranian attacks, Gulf-based shipping executives and diplomatic sources confirmed Thursday.

The sources, all speaking on condition they not be named, said the move by such corporations as Chevron and Mobil was apparently prompted by loss of hope that the US Navy's escort operations would be expanded to cover US-owned or operated vessels that do not fly the American flag.

They said Chevron and Mobil recently registered a total of five super-tankers in Bermuda under the red ensign, flag of the British Merchant Marine, and Exxon Corporation had brought its Bahamas-registered Esso Atlantic out of four years' retirement to carry crude to the United States. The 516,893-ton ship is one of the world's three or four largest.

Exxon already has about a dozen super-tankers flying the UK flag, and another five sailing under the French flag.

France, Britain, Italy and the Soviet Union also have naval escort contingents in the Gulf.

Shifted
Two Chevron-owned vessels, the 413,158-ton Chevron South America and the 264,000-ton Chevron Edinburgh, were shifted from Liberia to Bermudan registry in December. The vessels routinely operate between Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura terminal and Chevron's US Gulf coast refinery in Pascagoula, Missis-

But crucial aspects are still unresolved, raising questions about a recent comment by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly G. Kovalev that only a "few commas or words" remain to be discussed at Geneva.

Among the still-open issues: ● At what stage is Western and other military aid to be cut off to the Mujahedeen guerrillas who are battling the Kahul government and its Soviet backers? US officials say the timing of the cutoff has not yet been determined.

● How should the withdrawal be phased? Gorbachev has said "relatively greater portion" of what he describes as the "limited Soviet contingent" of troops will be withdrawn quite rapidly. He implied Moscow was thus accepting US demands that the withdrawal should be "front-end loaded." But a diplomatic source close to the UN-mediated talks who declined to be identified said there were still "very different approaches" to this concept.

● How will the settlement involve Iran, host of another 2 million Afghan refugees and base of other Mujahedeen resistance groups, which this week sent new word pressing for a non-Marxist Islamic government? Iran has refused to join in the talks as long as the Mujahedeen resistance is not invited, but, but says it will accept any settlement that satisfies the "legitimate aspirations" of the Afghan people.

● Who will sign any peace agreement for Afghanistan, and what government will operate in Kabul during the withdrawal? Pakistan argues that a durable settlement requires the prior formation of a "broad-based" interim government to prevent more bloodshed and encourage the refugees' return. Some Pakistani officials have indicated that officials of the Soviet-backed Afghan government could participate in such an interim leadership.

Gorbachev assured a visiting Najib in December 1986 that Moscow would "not abandon" him, but now says the make-up of the future government is an internal matter and "none of our business."

Most of the Pakistan-based groups representing the estimated 200,000 Mujahedeen have ruled out any power-sharing with Najib. Their demands for direct talks with the Kremlin have been spurned by Moscow.

sipti. The Chevron fleet is estimated at 48, mainly under Liberian registry.
Mobil, with a 28-vessel fleet, has transferred three Liberian-flagged tankers to Bermudan. They are the 277,000-ton Mobil Falcon, the 280,428-ton Mobil Petrol and the 138,496-ton Mobil Acme, which also routinely carry Saudi crude to the United States.

The US Navy's Middle East force mainly protects 11 state-owned US-flagged tankers registered last year in the United States. Only one of the re-flagged ships is a crude oil tanker, and none of them sail regularly to the United States, which derives only six per cent of its oil imports directly from Gulf sources.

Although the Navy may escort any US-flag vessel, few enter the waterway, where nearly 500 ships have been hit or damaged since the Iraq-Iran war began in September 1980 and spread in earnest to the Gulf four years ago.

Iran strikes at neutral vessels in the 600-mile (1,000 km) waterway in retaliation for Iraqi raids on its own tanker routes.

Attacks
Following an increase in Iranian attacks last year, American shipowners with vessels registered under other "flags of convenience" for tax and other purposes, or carrying cargo to and from the United States under other flags, urged the Pentagon to let the Navy escort their vessels.

The pressure increased just before the new US Defence Secretary, Frank Carlucci, visited the Gulf last month to reassess the Navy role.

Robertson a wild card in South Carolina

Christian conservatives may spoil Bush's party

By Christopher Hanson

ALEXANDRIA, VA., (Reuters): George Bush's drive for the Republican presidential nomination could be jolted in the US south next month by people like Tim Harrigan.

Harrigan, 28, a former salesman now toiling in a makeshift political headquarters in his basement, has joined a growing army of conservative Christian volunteers working for candidate Pat Robertson, a former religious broadcaster and faith healer.

That army of evangelical Christians has made Robertson a wild card in the South Carolina Republican primary election on March 5 and on "Super Tuesday" three days later, when 20 states, mostly in the south, pick delegates to the Republican and Democratic national conventions.

"I've made myself totally available," Harrigan said in an interview at his home in Alexandria, Va, a Super Tuesday state. Vice President Bush, he said, was much too liberal, despite his loyalty to the conservative President Reagan.

Fall
The fall of television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, who gave up his pulpit on Sunday amid allegations of adultery, might make it

somewhat more difficult for Robertson to broaden his political base, politics experts say.

But Brookings Institution politics expert Stephen Hess said of the Swaggart affair: "It can't help Robertson, but it's a little blip — it doesn't amount to much."

Bush, who trounced Senator Robert Dole in the New Hampshire primary last week, is hoping to capitalise on Reagan's popularity in the south and on a potent organisation to roll over Dole on Super Tuesday and secure the nomination.

For that to occur, the Bush camp says, its candidate must prevail in South Carolina, the south's political gateway, where a win would give Bush a decisive surge of momentum.

But Robertson, a Virginian, has thrown down the gauntlet in South Carolina, predicting he will win there and go on to other victories on Super Tuesday. South Carolina Republican leaders see a potentially very tight Bush-Robertson race, with the less well-organised Dole trailing.

Asked if Robertson might win South Carolina, Republican state chairman Van Hipp told Reuters: "It can happen. It's realistic. The race is wide open and it will be a dogfight."

He attributed Robertson's strength to the many local equivalents of Harrigan — dedicated evangelical conservatives convinced that Robertson would work effectively to ban abortion, restore prayer to public schools, fight pornography and drug abuse, and defend family values.

In South Carolina, as in other key states, Robertson's organisers have worked methodically, building an organisation from a list of more than three million signatures on petitions they circulated nationwide last year urging Robertson to run.

Robertson's army has been trained in parliamentary procedure at meetings in churches across the country. His backers have packed party gatherings to score impressive early coups in several states including Michigan, Hawaii and Washington.

Arkansas Republican organizer Dorothy English said Robertson's operation was the most visible and energetic in her state.

Control
In Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi and Virginia, the Robertson machine has seized control in local party meetings and is working to put its people into key party jobs, showing it wants to remain a force after 1988, party leaders said.

Robertson turned out more

people than all other candidates combined in recent party meetings in Georgia's 10 biggest counties, said Georgia Republican national committeeman Carl Gillis, a building contractor in the rural hamlet of Adrian.

Speaking in a thick drawl, Gillis, who is neutral in the contest, told Reuters that Robertson's support seemed to run very deep in rural Georgia.

"I asked a lady who works for me, 'You gonna vote for Pat Robertson?' she said, 'Yeah. I ain't told anybody, though.'"

"I said, 'well let me ask you something — is your sister gonna vote for Pat Robertson?' Her sister lives right close there. She said, 'Yeah.'"

"Her mother lives right close to her, too. I said, 'is your mother gonna vote for Pat Robertson?' she said, 'Yeah.'"

"I said, 'some of those folks that you go to (Methodist) church with up there gonna vote for Pat Robertson?' she said, 'Yeah.'"

Gillis chuckled and said Robertson might win Georgia.

"My wife is gonna vote for Pat Robertson," he volunteered, stressing the word wife.

Some Republican officials say Robertson might win a majority of delegates in Virginia and pull many delegates in other conservative Super Tuesday states.



Habre seen winning peace in Chad with open arms policy

By Claude Reglin

N'DJAMENA, (Reuters): Last year Colonel Abdelkader Kamougue lived in plush Libyan hotels at Tripoli's expense plotting Chad's downfall.

Today, he is serving Habre as Chad's agriculture minister, and leads a spartan life in N'Djamena, the dusty and bullet-scarred capital of the country, which has seen two decades of civil strife.

He is one of scores of former Habre foes who have rallied to him in the past two years as part of the Chadian leader's declared policy of forgiveness and national reconciliation.

Other beneficiaries of Habre's open arms policy include Gen-

eral Djihir Negue Djogo, the current justice minister, and Public Works Minister Kassire Delwa Coumakoye, who as a judge condemned Habre to death a few years ago.

After inflicting defeats on Libya on the battlefields the 47-year-old Chadian leader is winning peace at home, where his once exiled enemies have been returning.

Jobs
"We were all drawn home not by the promise of key jobs but by the related realisation that only Habre could lead the country together," Kamougue told Reuters in an interview.

Those who have returned have been given top jobs in government, the Army and the judiciary. But they say this

played no part in their decision. Adoum Yaouah led a 1983, Libyan-backed military invasion of northern Chad aimed at returning former President Goukouni Oueddei to power. Now he is the Chadian Army's third highest ranking commander.

He turned against his former backers and played a major part in an eight-month military offensive which ended three years of Libyan military occupation of northern Chad last year.

All say they returned without conditions. "I simply wanted to play my part in efforts to rebuild my country," Health Minister Mahamat Senoussi Khatir told Reuters. Senoussi, a former ambassador to Libya and Belgium under Goukouni, said civil servants had been on half-pay for

the past five years, the other half going towards the country's war effort against Libya.

"It is a small price and we were all delighted that our sacrifice paid off when we realised the scope of our troops' humiliation of the mighty Libyan Army last year," he added in an interview in his sparsely furnished one-storey house.

Regretted
Both Kamougue and Senoussi, who for many years lived on what they called Khaddafi's petrodollars, said they regretted not having recognised early enough that Habre was right from the beginning when he claimed that Libya used them only to hack expansionist designs on Chad.

"Habre has shown he was the

man Chad needed to end two decades of factional strife and to check Libya's territorial ambitions," Kamougue said.

The 49-year-old, French-trained southern Army general was Goukouni's vice-president in one of Chad's many short-lived governments and hunted then rebel leader Habre out of the country in 1980.

He now speaks with admiration of his new boss, describing him as a real statesman.

The 47-year-old Goukouni, who ruled from November 1980 until June 1982 when he was chased out of N'Djamena by Habre, has not returned home. Habre has repeatedly stated his arch-rival would be welcomed with open arms.

Chadian officials and

diplomats say Goukouni is a spent force at home. But they add that as long as he and the current nominal head of Chad's government-in-exile, Achille Mbongo, remain out of the country Libya will be able to use them as pawns in efforts to destabilise Habre.

Negotiations with Goukouni have collapsed over what Chadian officials describe as unacceptable demands which include a dismantling of Unir, the sole political party.

Habre set up the broad-based Unir in 1984 to put an end to political and inter-community fighting among the 5.3 million Chadians, whose country straddles black and Arab Africa and comprises some 200 ethnic groups.

Soviet dissident monks speak about religion under communism

By Helen Womack

PSKOV, Soviet Union, (Reuters): As the millennium of Christianity in Russia approaches, a group of dissident monks have spoken out about their problems under the communist authorities who they say are reducing monastic life to a token show.

"Before the revolution, when a man entered a monastery, he died as far as the Tsarist state was concerned," one of the monks, Father Alipiy, told Reuters in a recent interview.

"But the Soviet state will not so readily relinquish a man. A monk remains a Soviet citizen with all the pressures and obligations which that entails."

Father Alipiy was one of 10 monks expelled from the Cave Monastery near the northern city of Pskov in 1983 after protesting at what they called misconduct by their superior Archimandrite Gavril.

He was appointed by the Moscow church hierarchy, which dissidents say collaborates with the Kremlin.

The Archimandrite was not available for comment on the case of the 10 who now officiate in village churches around Pskov.

Father Sergei, responsible for discipline in the monastery, said only that the community preferred not to wash its dirty linen in public.

Thousands of Soviet and foreign tourists visit the 500-year-old monastery every year and, to the casual observer, the life of the monks there seems to follow its centuries-old rhythm.

They rise at six for morning worship in the various white and pastel-coloured churches on the site, then work in the gardens and bakery or restore icons until six in the evening when they return to their prayers.

The outstanding feature of the monastery is a labyrinth of caves where the founding hermits lived until the 14th century and which contains the bones of 11,000 monks, local nobility and warriors.

A scent rather like lavender which comes from the coffin of Vasa, wife of one of the early

monks, is said to be miraculous and is a particular attraction for pilgrims and tourists.

A record number of visitors are expected to flock to the monastery this summer during celebrations marking 1,000 years of Christianity in Russia because Pskov is the birthplace of Olga, grandmother of Vladimir, Russia's first Christian prince.

But the dissident monks, in signed statements about their grievances, cautioned against assuming Soviet monasteries were thriving. They said communist authorities were making entrance for young novices increasingly difficult and reducing monastic life to a token show.

Their remarks echoed points made in a recent letter on monasteries from a Russian orthodox bishop to Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and paralleled warnings from dissident laymen that Soviet authorities will use the millennium to give an inaccurate rosy picture of the state of the church.

Before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, there were 1,025 monasteries and convents in the Russian empire, where monasticism was still popular and revered.

In successive anti-religious campaigns, hundreds of these were forcibly dissolved and their lands confiscated by the state. Now there are only 17 orthodox monasteries and convents in the Soviet Union and none for other denominations.

In one case, that of the Solovki island community, a labour camp was built on the site of the dissolved monastery.

"Pskov was lucky and escaped closure," said Father Alipiy. "But the state took away our lands, lakes and forests and left us with only a small garden."

Returned
Recently the state returned to the church the Danilov Monastery in Moscow, now the headquarters of the patriarchy, and has promised to give back the Optina Pustyn Monastery which 19th century writers Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky used to visit.

But, as Bishop Feodosy of Astrakhan and Yenotayevka

complained in his letter to Gorbachev, Russia's historically most important monastery, the Kiev Pechersky Monastery, remains a museum without monks despite the approach of the jubilee.

The closure of so many monasteries and convents severely limited the opportunities of men and women with a vocation to become monks and nuns, the dissidents said.

For this reason the Catholic church, which has no monasteries or convents, and even the more fortunate orthodox church, had secret monks and nuns who practised their religion at home, they said.

The state imposed a quota on monasteries above which they could not recruit and exerted strong pressure through propaganda on young people to discourage them from choosing a monastic life, Father Alipiy said.

Father Sergei said Pskov had its full quota of 80 monks ranging in age from 18 to 95 and there was a balance between the number of applications and places available.

Italy weighing forgiveness for Red Brigade members

By Brendan Murphy

ROME, (UPI): Ten years after Red Brigades terrorism crested with the kidnap-murder of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro, Italy is weighing forgiveness for a generation of ideological killers.

Authorities still hunt scattered successors of the leftists who abducted Moro March 16, 1978, killing his five bodyguards in an ambush. Moro's bullet-riddled corpse was dumped in Rome 55 days later.

Today, a proposition labelled "perdonismo," Italian for "pardon," is triggered heated debate. Its advocates seek a political solution to the long-standing national emergency by allowing terrorists who have renounced war on society to rejoin it.

"What happened in Italy was that there was a kind of war, a little war," said Red Brigades co-founder Alberto Franceschini, 40, now on work release after 14 years in prison. "We need to conclude that period."

"We want some kind of measure which will heal, enable

us to talk about what happened." "Perdonismo" emerged from powerful Roman Catholic circles and later found support in the Christian Democrat Party Moro led.

"It is not only opportune, but necessary, to close the book on the past and finish with terrorism," said Christian Democrat senior statesman Flaminio Piccoli.

Trial
But the furor generated by such calls showed that most Italians are not ready to turn the page.

In February the third mass trial of suspects in the Moro affair was churning to a conclusion in Rome. Gunmen remain at large.

"The state cannot and should not favour a few people who violated everyone's rights," protested the widow of Gen. Licio Giorgini, slain in March 1987 by a Brigades offshoot, the Combatant Communist Union. Warned former President Sandro Pertini, sworn in soon after Moro died: "It would be a dangerous act of weakness by the state."

The debate goes deeper than rehabilitating some 200 Red Brigades leaders still in jail. At bottom it means assimilating a painful national ordeal that is not quite over.

"It is a major trauma not only in political and personal terms but in collective terms," said the US-born Carol Beebe Tarantelli, 45, a leftist member of the chamber of deputies.

She speaks from first-hand experience. In 1985 Red Brigades gunmen murdered her husband, Exio Tarantelli, a prominent economist.

Fear
"People feel very, very strongly about what happened," Tarantelli said in a heavily guarded parliament building. "People faced the fact that there were little Hitlers walking around."

The extreme-left campaign of destabilisation through kidnap and assassination cost about 80 lives — policemen, magistrates, prison guards, politicians, journalists, businessmen and others.

Yet Tarantelli believes Italy is coming to terms with an era when terrorism was a national fact of life.

"A lot of the fear and anger has come about because people are afraid it would be an attempt to erase those years," she said.

Critics of "perdonismo" say the state cannot extend collective

forgiveness in the place of victims' families. They also say terrorists are merely common killers who deserve no clemency.

"All right," said Franceschini, "but let us pay equally. Because a terrorist pays three times what a common murderer does." Emergency laws imposed multiple life sentences on many "Brigatistas."

Official "perdonismo" backers like prisons director Nicola Amato see it less in terms of forgiveness but of obtaining an armistice with the jailed leadership of the Brigades.

Experts date the Brigades' defeat from Jan 28, 1982, when anti-terrorist police raided a Padua apartment to rescue US Gen James Dozier, kidnapped 42 days before. Massive roundups netted its leaders.

But terrorists behind bars can become revolutionary martyrs, inspiring younger killers on the outside, said Giorgio Bocca, a columnist for the newsweekly L'Espresso and author of two books on terrorism.

Pardoned or paroled, they could become weapons of persuasion in the continuing government campaign of "pacification."

"They have said that the war of the state is over, so once free they will have every interest in seeing that terrorism ends," Bocca said in a telephone interview from Milan.

Skeptical
Hardliners remain skeptical, saying the Red Brigades "Army" may have been defeated, but its remnants fight on.

Authorities contend that Brigades gunman Antonino Fosso, captured recently, was just completing arrangements to assassinate Christian Democrat Party chief Ciriaco De Mita.

A Milan judge has accused the Red Brigades of pursuing the liberation of its leaders so it can launch a new war.

There is a hard core of "irreducibles" in prison who vow never to abandon their cause. But the majority have renounced violence if not their beliefs.

"The age of terrorism in Italy is finished," says Franceschini. Terrorism expert Bocca agrees. He believes Italy now is going through the same process that took place after other national schisms, such as fascism — putting the pieces back together.

"Amnesty has always been practiced to reunify the country," he said. "It is a typically Italian tendency."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1560 — Treaty of Berwick between England and Lords of the Scottish congregation, calling for expulsion of French from Scotland.

1700 — Southwest Pacific island of New Britain is discovered by English navigator William Dampier.

1861 — Warsaw massacre occurs when crowd is fired upon by Russian troops during demonstration against Russian rule.

1881 — Boers defeat British force at Majuba hill in South Africa.

1889 — Railroad is opened in Burma from Rangoon to Mandalay.

1900 — British Labour Party is formed with Ramsay MacDonald as secretary.

1901 — Russia's minister of propaganda is murdered to avenge repression of student agitation.

1929 — Turkey signs Litvinov protocol, or Eastern Pact, between Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Romania, for renunciation of war.

1933 — Reichstag, German parliament building in Berlin, is burned, and Nazis blame communists.

1939 — Britain and France recognise General Francisco Franco's government in Spain.

1968 — Britain's House of Commons approved bill to restrict coloured immigration to Britain.

1974 — Ethiopia's cabinet resigns as military mutiny spreads from captured city of Asmara.

1976 — Eskimo leaders in Canada present government with claim to quarter of a million square miles of land.

1978 — Egypt restricts special privileges of Palestinians living in that country, and says they will be treated as any other Arab aliens.

1986 — Ferdinand E. Marcos starts life in exile in Hawaii after hurried departure from Philippines.

1987 — White House says US President Ronald Reagan is angry about foreign policy mismanagement in Iran-Contra affair.

Malayalee drama festival held

MORE than 1,400 Indians attended a Malayalee drama festival presented on Thursday by the Prathiba Theatres at the Indian Arts Circle.

The group performed three one-act plays, based on topical and mythological subjects.

Values

K.P. Ashok Kumar directed Aasthana Viddikal, based on well-known Kerala playwright G. Sankara Pillai's play of the same name. It was a modern version of traditional Indian play about

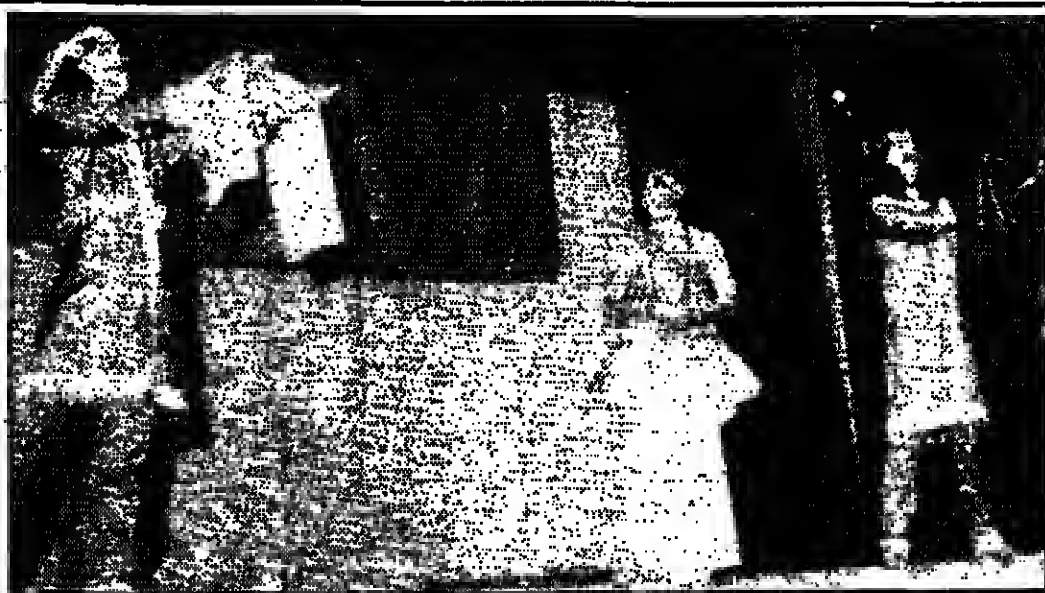
the erosion of values. N.K.G. Nair, Dharamajan and Harish Felix appeared in the play.

Dhruvam, a study of slum-dwellers, directed by A.N. Satyadas, was also performed. V.T. Thomas, Anthony and Kuruvilla played the main roles in this short play.

Greed

The programme also included Vargham, a play on greed involving three characters, that was directed by A.J. Sebastian.

Indian Ambassador N.N. Jha was the chief guest at the festival.



A scene from the Malayalam play Aasthana Viddikal.

This week on KTV 2

- SUNDAY**
- 6.00 Holy Quran
 - 6.10 The Lone Ranger: "The Ghost Wagon". Is there such a thing as the "Ghost Wagon"? The Lone Ranger examines the myth.
 - 6.30 Butterfly Island: "Quarantine". A group of visitors have food poisoning and are treated by a nurse living on the island.
 - 7.00 Understanding Islam: a weekly local show on Islam.
 - 7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a weekly look at sporting events.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 Hot Shots: "The Family Jokes". The female owner of a news-magazine is forced to sell her property to a black-mailer, who dies in mysterious circumstances. Amanda and Jack investigate.
 - 9.30 Foley Square: "Judgement Call". Alex is invited by a judge to spend a weekend at a castle.
 - 10.00 Q.E.D.: documentary
 - 10.30 Best-Seller: to be announced
 - 12.00 NewsSummary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- MONDAY**
- 6.00 Holy Quran
 - 6.10 Yoga: Treasure Hunt: cartoons
 - 6.30 The Animal Express
 - 7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of world news, presented by KTV.
 - 7.30 Don't Wait Up: a comedy of manners about a British family who can't seem to get anything right. In tonight's episode, the son tries to take his mother to the airport...
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 The Law and Harry McGraw: "The Fallen Arrow". Harry goes against all odds to clear a bookie of murder.
- TUESDAY**
- 9.30 Horizon: BBC documentary
 - 10.30 Mini-Series: "A Year in the Life". The life, love and fortunes of a middle-class American family are revealed in this mini-series, starring Richard Kiley, Eva Marie Saint, Wendy Phillips, Morgo Steveos and David Oliver.
 - 11.30 NewsSummary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- WEDNESDAY**
- 6.00 Holy Quran
 - 6.10 Rainbow Bright: cartoons
 - 6.30 Side Kicks: "Petty Cash". Arnie rehearses for a school play in which he plays a major role.
 - 7.00 Beyond 2000: this episode examines improvements in safety equipment such as safety belts, preventing accidents on places and high-speed patrol boats.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 You and the Law: a local programme
 - 8.50 Heart of the City: "Rock and a Rumble". A policeman kills a member of a notorious gang.
 - 9.30 Tracey Ullman Show: a 30-minute comedy featuring short sketches, including Meg's Show.
 - 12.00 NewsSummary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- THURSDAY**
- 6.00 Holy Quran
 - 6.10 The Lone Ranger: "The Lone Ranger". The Lone Ranger examines the myth.
 - 6.30 The Mickey Mouse Club: a short story about a boy who works in a circus, plus the usual features — songs, dances and cartoons.
 - 7.00 Rags to Riches: "Vegas Rock". Foley goes to Las Vegas and the girls follow him to meet a singer.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 Spencer for Hire: "Widows Walk". A widow hires Spencer to help find the man who

TV CORNER



Dale Robertson plays Starbuck, Wednesdays.

- examines the beginnings of agriculture in the UK.
- 7.30 Growing Pains: "Employees of the Month". Mike finds a job but can't keep it.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 J.J. Starbuck: Dale Robertson plays an eccentric billionaire who becomes a private eye. In tonight's episode he helps a pianist.
 - 9.30 The World of Strange Power: "Walking on Fire". This episode has been carried over from last week and talks about the power of yodis and others who can walk on fire.
 - 10.00 Paul Daniels Magic Show: British illusionist Paul Daniels returns with more magic and tricks.
 - 10.30 Late Night Movie: "Portrait in Black" Starring: Anthony Quinn, Sandra Dee. Typical Hollywood romance about a bed-ridden tycoon, dissatisfied wife, weak-willed doctor in love with wife.
 - 12.00 NewsSummary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- FRIDAY**
- 3.00 Holy Quran
 - 3.10 Sports Studio: round-up of world and local sports events.
 - 6.00 She Ra — Princess of Power: cartoons
 - 6.30 Airwolf: "A Piece of Cake". A wealthy industrialist's son is kidnapped and Joe is commissioned to rescue him.
 - 7.30 Spitting Image: "Your Life in Their Hands".
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 Breaking Away
 - 9.05 Madock: "The Professor". A professor overcomes his inferiority complex by plotting the murder of a colleague with the help of students.
 - 9.30 Weekend: local programme
 - 10.00 What A Country: Mr Brown is asked to stay away while the students sit for an examination conducted by the principal. Ali is his favourite victim.
 - 10.30 Wise Guy: Frank discovers Sonny's sinister plot and prevents him from killing a singer.
 - 11.30 NewsSummary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown
- THURSDAY**
- 3.00 Holy Quran
 - 3.10 Sports Studio: Big League Soccer American basketball and sports magazine
 - 6.00 Centurions: cartoon serial
 - 6.30 The Mickey Mouse Club: a short story about a boy who works in a circus, plus the usual features — songs, dances and cartoons.
 - 7.00 Rags to Riches: "Vegas Rock". Foley goes to Las Vegas and the girls follow him to meet a singer.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 Spencer for Hire: "Widows Walk". A widow hires Spencer to help find the man who

KTV 1 weekly highlights

- SUNDAY**
- 7.30 Divaniyat Sumara Al Nabt: a weekly programme featuring Nabt poets and other works, directed by Faiban Al Otaibi.
 - 10.50 Variety Show: featuring the Jordanian Folklore Troupe, which took part in the 1987 Jerash Festival.
- MONDAY**
- 7.15 Itfalan wal Mustaqbil: "Our Children and Their Future." This episode deals with literature for Arab children. Dr Juliana Abu Nasr of Beirut University discusses the subject.
 - 10.50 Dacrat Al Ahadith (Circle of Events): Kamel Sulaiman examines the services provided by Kuwait Television. Guests are Salem Al Fahad and Majeed Baghdad.
- TUESDAY**
- 4.15 Ghadab Al Sahara: episode 4 of daily Arabic serial.
 - 7.25 Alam Al Haiwanat: Animal World. This documentary focusses on marine life.
 - 9.50 Safahat Min Tareekh Al Kuwait: Historical Series. Marzouk Al Shamlan examines life in Kuwait in the days gone by.
- WEDNESDAY**
- 5.15 Bain Al Ams Wa Al Youm: Between Yesterday and Today is a local programme which examines the development of communication systems to the region.
 - 10.50 Music Studio: a local variety show featuring Rubah, Jamal Rashid, Nofal Abdul Jalil, Abdullah Al Rowashad, Sulaiman Al Moosa and others.
- THURSDAY**
- 10.00 am Fi Ribah Tarihiya: a weekly educational programme, this series examines the problems of schooling and the system of education in Kuwait.
 - 11.30 Al Islam Wal Insan: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Abdul Suboor Shahin.
 - 4.15 The Saint Roger Moore plays the debonair detective Simoo Templar.
 - 7.05 Mafhoum Ayyesh Farhan: weekly serial, starring Sayyada Kawiari, Basma Hamada, Huda Hamada, Hilal Mohammad Hilal.
 - 10.30 Kadda Baina Al Zaffah: Arabic film starring Suhair Murshidi, Mahmood Masoud, Saeed Abdul Ghani. Directed by Kamal Salah Al Din.
- FRIDAY**
- 10.20 Hikayat Min Al Alam: Stories from Around the World. A look at how people live in different countries.
 - 4.00 Hindi feature film: starring Jeetendra, Reena Roy. Typical Hindi film rehash about a rich boy and poor girl who overcome all odds to marry and are separated only to meet years later.
 - 11.00 Oudat Min Al Hilal Al Wardi: Arabic play. Starring: Salah Saadani, Athar Al Hakim, Munassar Bilal, Shawki Shamiq. Directed by Fuad Abdul Jalil.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
- 9.20 Malikat Talej: cartoon serial about the adventures of a young boy who meets an ice maiden.
- 10.20 Layal Al Farq Al Kuwaitiya: local programme presented by Basma Hamada.
- 11.00 Fi Khahr Kan: Arabic play, featuring Saleh Hamad, Ismahani Tawfiq, Zainah Dahl. Children's play.
- 1.00 News in Arabic
- 1.20 World News via Satellite
- 2.20 Wajoh Al Shaki: Iraqi play, starring Salima Khidr, Khalil Rifai, Jalal Kamal.
- 3.30 Ibtal Al Mu'laab: cartoon serial
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
- 4.25 English feature film, starring Andrew McCarthy, Jenny Donaldis.
- 5.45 Nazrat Alal Alam: documentary
- 6.00 Open University
- 6.50 Nour Al Islam: "Aamal Al Bar Fi Palestine". Guests are Dr Hafez Abdul Nabi and Majeed

- Nasser Al Din.
- 7.25 Security and Citizens
- 8.00 A social programme organised by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 10.05 Suraq Al Simt: Arabic serial; ep. 1: starring Sana Jamil, Hamdi Gbailth, Anwar Ismael, Mimi Jamal, Ahmad Badr.
- 10.50 Dafatar Al Ayam: an interview with director Salah Abu Saif and a look at his contribution to Arabic cinema.
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 World News via Satellite
- 12.45 Holy Quran/Closedown

- coast. A study of their habits and habitat.
- 7.30 Married with Children: "Peggy Sue Got Work". Al refuses to buy a video for Peggy, who rebels and finds a job to pay for the equipment.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 Moonlighting: The series is now concentrating more on Ms. Depestre's fortunes. Starring Bruce Willis and Cybil Shepherd.
- 9.30 Silk Road: "The Caravans Move West". This journey westward takes the team to Iraq and beyond to the Syrian desert. Along the way they visit the ruins of Palmyra.
- 10.30 Feature Film: "Many Happy Returns". Starring George Burns. This is the story of a man who refuses to pay taxes and gets into a lot of trouble with the tax man.
- 11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite / Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Thundercats: "Mechanical Plague". Cartoons.
- 6.30 Moon Jumper: "The Red Ribbon Job". Nicole asks Ted Masters to let her ride a horse. He gives her a bad tempered horse to ride.
- 7.00 Lorne Grecoe's New Wilderness: "Koala". Koalas live on the French Island near the Australian

English

- MORNING**
- 08.00 Opening
 - 08.02 Songs and Music
 - 08.30 NEWS
 - 08.40 Songs and music
 - 08.45 Daily programme
 - 09.00 Cultural horizon
 - 09.30 Reggae rock
 - 10.00 Our Press Today
 - 10.05 Songs and music
 - 10.30 The years of pops
 - 11.00 Closedown
 - 13.30 NEWS on the F.M. service.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

FM Services

- EVENING**
- 21.00 Opening
 - 21.02 Kuwait our beloved homeland
 - 21.20 Songs and music
 - 21.30 NEWS
 - 21.45 Point of view
 - 21.55 Songs and music
 - 22.00 Kuwait in a week
 - 22.15 Rock and pop
 - 22.45 Daily programme
 - 23.00 Strictly romantic
 - 23.30 Amazing facts
 - 24.00 Closedown
- 08.00-08.30 Easy listening
08.30-09.40 NEWS
09.40-10.00 Easy listening
10.00-10.30 Songs and music
10.30-11.30 Easy listening
11.30-12.40 NEWS
12.40-14.00 Easy listening
14.00-17.00 Easy listening
17.00-18.00 Spanish hour
18.00-21.00 Pops

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait
Dubai Pharmacy
Souk Wafel, Salah Al Din St.
Al Amal Pharmacy
Opp. Commercial Market, Mubarak Al Kabir St.
Hawalli and Nuzha
Al Ribah Pharmacy
Rihah Complex, Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rumithiya
Raed Pharmacy
Amman St.
Fahad and Ahmadi
Al Sheba Pharmacy
Late Sheikh Ahmad Bldg., F'bed
Khatan
Hayat Pharmacy
Main Street
Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nasrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

CINEMA TODAY

- Al Andalus
The Living Daylight
Starring: Timothy Dalton
- Al Salmiya
Legal Eagle
Starring: Robert Redford
- Al Hamra
Al Nimr Wal Unsa (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Athar Al Hakim
- Drive-In
Al Mal'ouh (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Yaseen, Imaan
- Al Firdous
Naya Zamana (Hindi)
Starring: Dharmendra, Hema Malini
- Fahad Open-Air
Shahenshah (Hindi)
- Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Meenakshi Seshadri
- Al Fahad
Idandzhiyal' Oru Kalocha (Malayalam)
- Al Jahra
Big Sleep
- Granada
Scaramouche
- Salaikhath
Uroos Min Damishq (Arabic)
- Al Jeeb
Jalakam (Malayalam)
- Ahmad Drive-In
Alligator



Islanders handle food poisoning on Butterfly Island.

WHAT'S ON

THEATRE

Kuwait Little Theatre
KLT will perform the Vicar of Wakefield, an amusing tale by Oliver Goldsmith, in March. Gala evening on March 14 at 7.30 pm. Repeat performances on March 15, 16 and 17 at 8.15 pm. For reservations ring 3983724.

Kuwait Players

"Antidote," a fast moving revue of comedy sketches and songs will be presented by Kuwait Players from Maty 9. Auditions will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Feb 28 and March 1, 7.30 to 9.30 pm. For any queries contact Paul Tel: 5611546.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Welsh Society
Annual St David's Day dinner at Messilah Beach Hotel on Tuesday, March 1. Singer Doreen Lewis will provide entertainment. For tickets and further details phone 4874548; 3910875; 3912384.

Ladies Tea Party

The International Ladies Tea Party will hold a fancy dress competition at their next meeting on March 2 at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. A karate expert will demonstrate self-defence techniques. For participating contact 5317390; 5386297.

Flightriders

If your child is BA flightrider member and has not received invitation to Flightrider Party on March 3 contact 2413868 or 2425496.

Kuwait Irish Society

St Patrick's Day celebration on March 17 at the Holiday Inn Hotel. If interested contact — 5621701/5622701, 8 am to 2 pm or 5624175 after 2 pm.

Daniella

Daniella, a Danish group, invites all Danes to a coffee morning in Kuwait Towers from 9.30 am on March 6. For details contact Marianne 3948933 or Ingelise 3903464.

Ghazal Singers

Well-known Indian ghazal singers Jagjit and Chitra Singh will give a concert on March 4, Friday, at the Kuwait Hilton. Tickets on sale at the hotel.

Swedish Ladies Get-together

The next coffee afternoon will be held on March 1, Tuesday, from 4 pm at the residence of Mrs Britt-Marie Bonnan.

Photography Contest

All members of Kapilku, the Filipino organisation in Kuwait, are invited to take part in a photography contest on "portrait of Filipinos in Kuwait." All entries must be (minimum 20 x 25 cms or (maximum) 50 x 40 cms. Prints can be in black and white or colour. Each contestant is allowed to submit a maximum of three entries. All entries must be titled or captioned and mounted on a white illustration board. The last date for submitting entries is March 1. They can be submitted at the Philippine embassy and all the Filipino restaurants in Kuwait. Winners will receive valuable prizes, including 20 consolation prizes; the name of winners will be announced after March 4.

SPORTS

Raft Race

Raft Race 1988 entry forms and rules are now available

from the Messilah Beach Hotel. First captain's meeting at MBH, Al Foz Suite, on March 1, 6.30 pm. For further details contact the hotel, ext. 712/751/705.

Ladies Sports Club

Application forms are available from the Ras Al Ardh Sea Club for the proposed Ladies Sports club. The club is open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm. Tel: 5740670.

ARTS

Islamic Arts Museum

Dar Al Atbar Al Islamia (Islamic Arts Museum) will hold nine week courses in ceramics, jewellery making, metalwork and watercolour drawing at the Muhtarraf in Bayt Al Badr. For details contact S. Al Mutawa — 2435915.

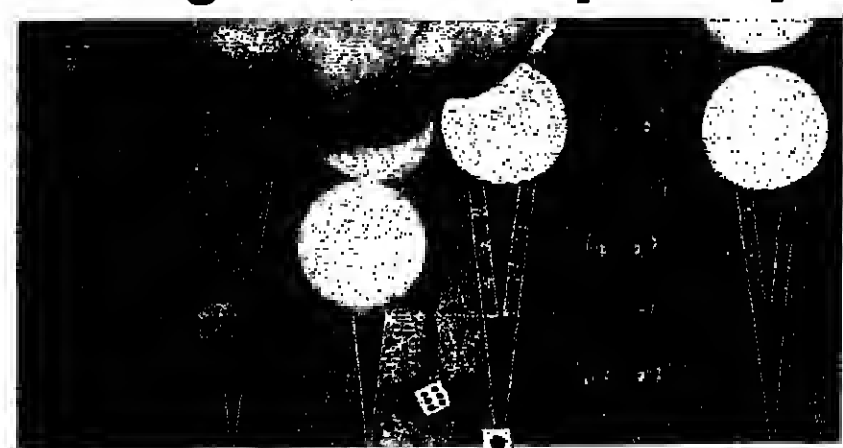
Sultan Gallery

"Kuwait: Studies in Water-colour" is the theme of an exhibition of paintings by American artist Kathleen Stafford at the Sultan Gallery, 9 am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm (except Friday), until Feb 29. The gallery is located near the Rolls Royce showroom, Al Soor St.

PRAYERS

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| Fajr | 4.56 am |
| Zuhr | 12.01 |
| Asr | 3.19 pm |
| Maghreb | 5.47 |
| Isha | 7.03 |

parfums paco rabanne presents the 1988 backgammon championship



In co-operation with Hilton International & Gulf Air

- Kuwait 6, 7 & 8 March '88
- Abu Dhabi 18, 19 & 20 March '88
- Dubai 10, 11 & 12 March '88
- Bahrain 27, 28 & 29 March '88

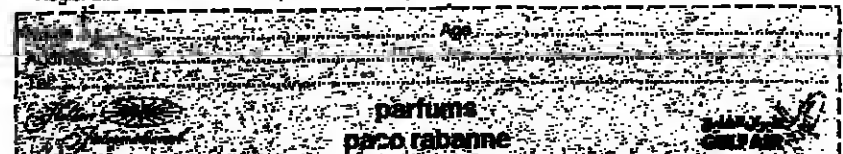
The finals will take place on March 30th 1988 At the Bahrain Hilton

Prizes

- The local champions will receive a cup, and will participate in the Grand Final in Bahrain.
- The local runner-up will receive a cup and a special gift from Parfums Paco Rabanne.
- The Champion of the Gulf will receive a cup and a return ticket to the Far East, courtesy of Gulf Air.
- The runner up of the Gulf will receive a cup and a return ticket to Nairobi, courtesy of Gulf Air.

Subscription

- Please fill the coupon and take it personally to the Hilton Hotel.
- Participation is limited to 256 players. Minimum age: 18 years
- Registration fees: Kuwait KD 2/- Bahrain BD 2.500 U.A.E. DHS 25/-
- Registration will be closed 3 days before the beginning of the tournament. (see above mentioned dates)



National Day in pictures



HH THE AMIR and Defence Minister Sheikh Nawal Al Ahmed Al Sabah inspect one of Kuwait's defence bases along the northern border.

Gaiety marks National Day

(Continued from Page 1)

Itching to move but the real pleasure is to watch the dancers themselves.

They move gracefully, obviously enjoying the dance. Looking at them it is difficult to place them in time. They could be last century's mariners or businessmen who just stepped out of a Mercedes.

Some of them look so old that they probably remember the beginning of this century. Others are teenagers. Their instruments are mainly different types of drums and flutes look ancient. No matter how narrow the range of the music and the dancers is, this kind of performance is the centrepiece of Kuwait's folklore and presents a most effective way of recalling one's heritage.

The clapping of the dancers'

hands, the wailing of the flutes and the beating of the drums struck a responsive cord with the visitors who watched from their American limousines.

Folkloric

The local groups were strengthened by a group of colourfully dressed Yemenis who performed some of their own brand of spirited folkloric dance. A mounted Police Academy team gave display of their skills with swords and spears.

A group of herdsmen sheared sheep in the old-fashioned way using a kind of vicious looking scissors. Children and adults crowded around the cages with pigeons, parrots and chickens with feathers painted red, green and blue.

Sheikh Nasser, who is also the

head of the higher committee for National Day celebrations, said the Safat Square has always stood as a symbol of Kuwait's past, rich in heritage and tradition.

The Safat Square which has undergone massive renovation, was the Kuwait City's central bazaar and is at present a bustling marketplace surrounded by skyscrapers.

On the occasion of the National Day, the Minister of State for Service Affairs Issa Al Mazidi visited the Shuwaikh Port and the Kuwait International Airport on Thursday.

Sheikh Nasser sent a cable of congratulations to the Amir. Sheikh Nasser wished the Amir continued good health and happiness and the country welfare and prosperity.



EQUESTRIAN skills were an important part of Kuwait's history as demonstrated in the above picture.



FALCONS are as popular now among Kuwaitis as they were in the past. They are patiently trained and are a hobby pursued by enthusiasts.



SEAFARERS carry timber, one of the valuable items brought with them from their four-month voyage, at the folklore festival held along the sea front.



KUWAIT'S flag was carried aloft by these children at Messilah Beach as they celebrated National Day in their own way.



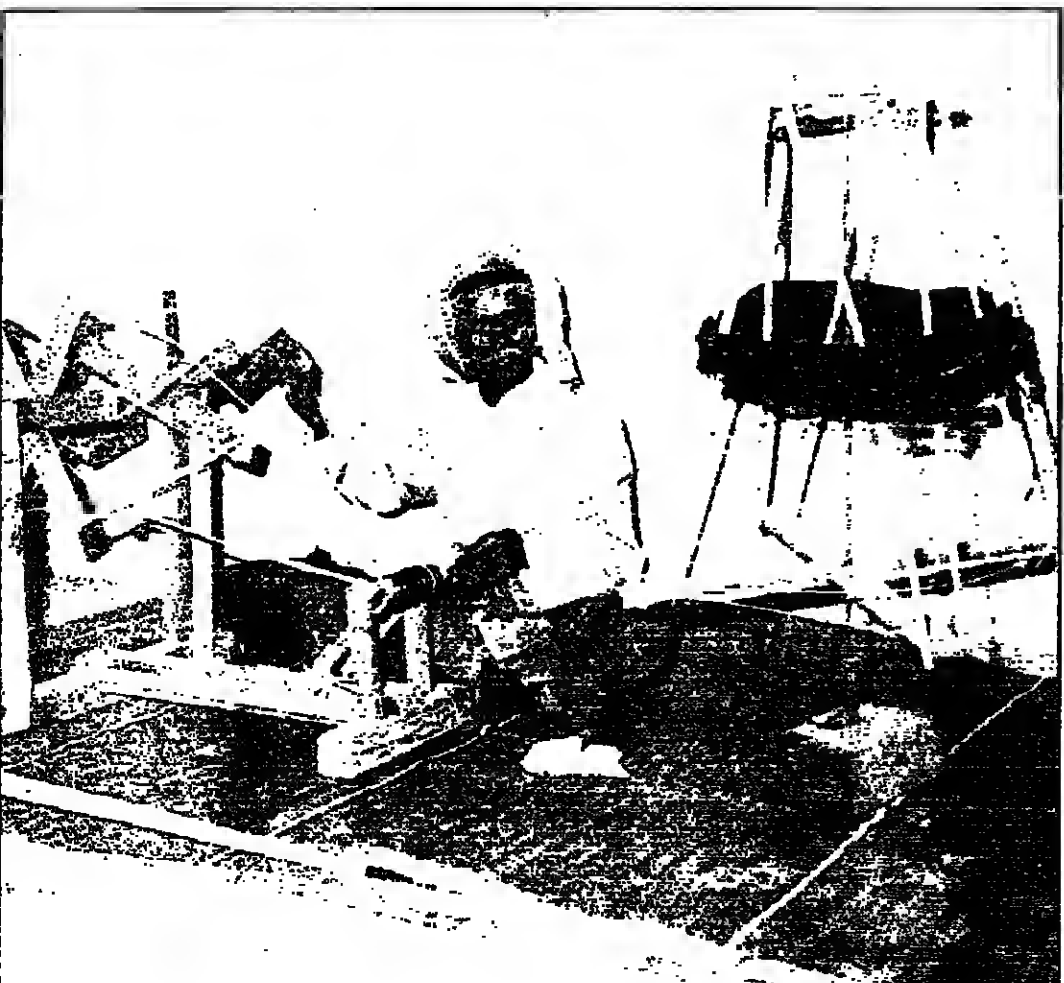
A TIMELSS SCENE. Children enjoying the pure pleasure of being able to reach out and touch a woolly sheep and women enjoying their children.



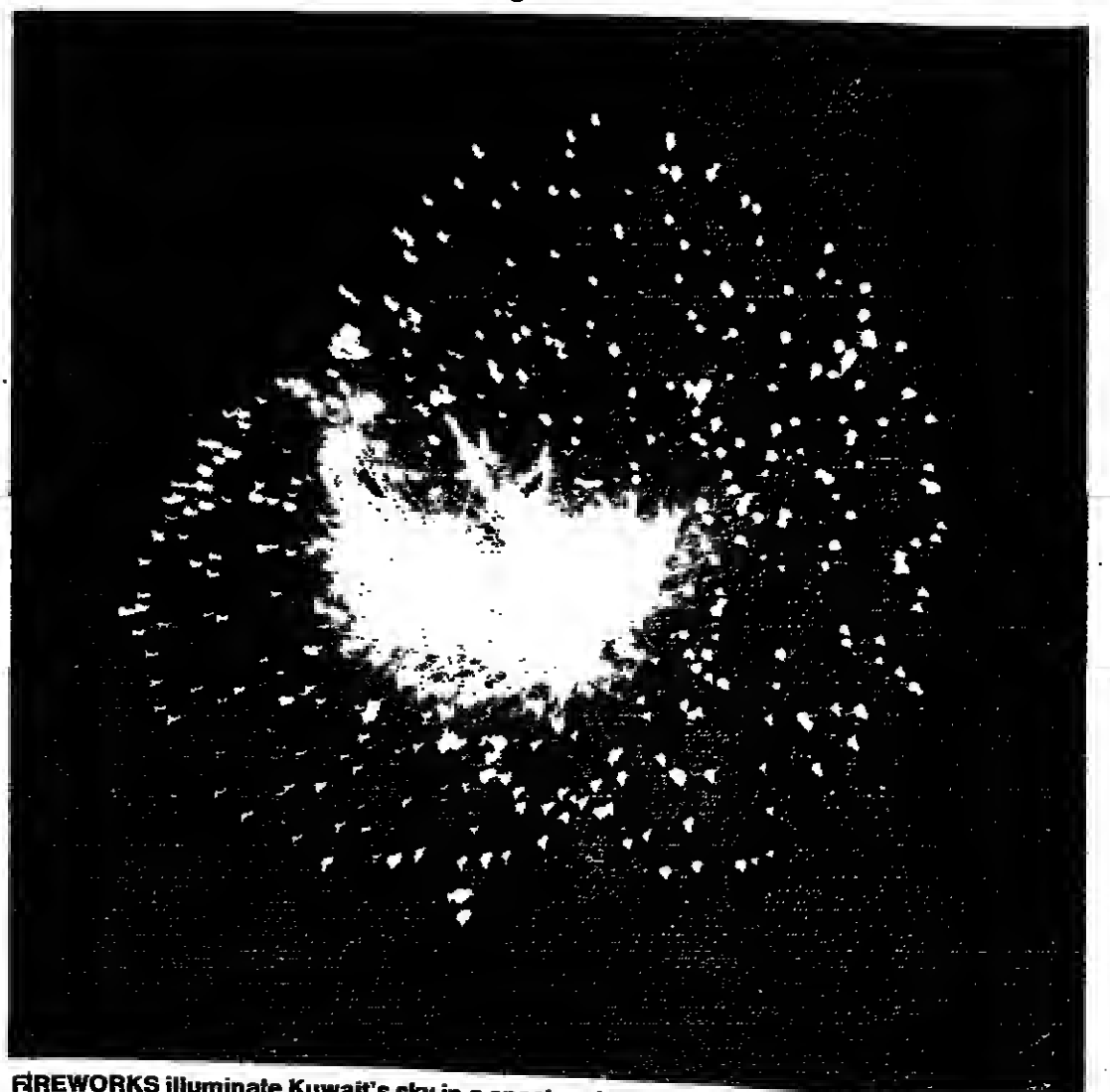
A MARCHING bagpipe band parades at the sea front; another reminder of the past's link to the present.



A DEMONSTRATION of sheep-shearing, using scissors, was popular at Flag Square. This man has his sheep ready for shearing.



BASKET WEAVING is just one of the traditional handicrafts demonstrated at the National Museum this week as Kuwait revives important aspects of its national heritage (above). And a handicraft revival would not be complete without a display of skills associated with the lovely bedouin weaving so popular in Kuwait. In the picture left, wool is spun and wound for weaving.



FIREWORKS illuminate Kuwait's sky in a spectacular display of colour and sound.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Real personal consumption expenditures drop

US economic growth revised to 4.5pc in 4th quarter

WASHINGTON, Feb 26, (Reuters): The US economy grew at a 4.5 per cent annual rate between October and December, even faster than the brisk 4.2 per cent pace estimated a month ago, the government said yesterday.

The Commerce Department said the upward revision to the figures for gross national product (GNP), the total output of goods and services produced by the United States, partly reflected stronger consumer spending than first thought.

An important inflation gauge, the GNP implicit price deflator, rose 2.7 per cent in the fourth quarter, the same as estimated a month ago.

The new statistics made no change to the growth rate for the whole of the calendar year of 2.9 per cent. But, measured from the

fourth quarter of 1986 to the fourth quarter of 1987, the rate was revised up to 3.9 per cent from 3.8.

The 4.5 per cent fourth-quarter rate, slightly faster than the third-quarter pace of 4.3 per cent, was the highest since 5.4 per cent in the first quarter of 1986. But it was below economists' forecasts of at least five per cent growth.

Revision

Economists had expected the government to report higher levels of exports and inventories, but the Commerce Department announced downward revisions.

Economists said the upward revision to the fourth-quarter growth figures was both good news and bad news.

The resilience of consumer

spending following the October stock market crash augurs well for a sixth consecutive year of economic growth in 1988. And with unsold goods piling up less rapidly than economists had feared, production cutbacks this quarter may not be so severe.

But the slight downward revision to net exports underlined yet again that America faces a long haul in reducing its trade deficit, which hit a record \$171 billion in 1987.

Real personal consumption expenditures fell \$19.8 billion in the fourth quarter rather than by \$24.1 as first estimated. Between July and September they rose by \$33.2 billion.

The dollar fell in New York on news of the GNP figures as traders reasoned that, if consumer spending was not as weak

as assumed, demand for imports would remain high and the US trade balance would improve only slowly.

The US currency fell about half a penny against the West German mark to 1.6950 marks.

Net exports of goods and services rose only \$2.0 billion in the fourth quarter instead of 7.7 billion as the government scaled back its estimate of agricultural exports. In the third quarter, net exports dropped \$5.7 billion.

Durable

Real business inventories rose \$56.7 billion in the fourth quarter instead of \$8.3 billion. They rose by \$24.6 billion in the third quarter.

Producers' purchases of durable equipment fell \$2.2 billion between October and December

instead of by 6.2 billion. They had risen 19.1 billion in the third quarter.

Largely because of this revision, real non-residential fixed investment, a measure of how firms are gearing up to expand production, fell by only \$600 million instead of 4.2 billion as first estimated.

Federal government purchases of goods and services rose by \$18.9 billion instead of 18.2 billion, while purchases by state and local governments rose \$5.7 billion instead of \$5.1 billion.

The total value of GNP was \$3,877.9 billion in the fourth quarter, compared with \$3,835.9 billion in the third quarter and 3,731.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 1986.

All of the figures are at season-

ally adjusted annual rates and are expressed in 1982 dollars, eliminating the impact of inflation.

In current-dollars GNP was 4,604.0 billion in the fourth quarter, compared with 4,524.0 billion between July and September.

Growth

The Reagan administration is predicting 2.4 per cent growth in 1988, while the Federal Reserve is looking for growth between 2.0 and 2.5 per cent.

The implicit price deflator inflation gauge, which rose 3.0 per cent in 1987, is expected to rise 3.9 per cent this year, according to White House economists. The Federal Reserve, the US Central Bank, looks more optimistically for a rise of 3.25 to 3.75 per cent.

Japan's rapid growth good news for US

TOKYO, Feb 26, (Reuters): Japan's economy is booming and looks set to exceed the government's growth target for 1987/88, government economists said yesterday.

"Domestic demand is very, very vigorous," said one, who declined to be identified.

The rapid growth is good news for the United States, which has been pressing Japan to speed up its economy and increase its imports to help correct the world's lopsided trading patterns.

The economists said the economy expanded strongly in the October/December quarter and that growth for the fiscal year ending March 31 was likely to top the government's 3.7 per cent target.

"Growth is likely to be over four per cent," said one.

Growth in 1988/89 also looks set to better the government forecast, of 3.8 per cent, they said.

Behind the revitalisation of Japan's economy, which only a year ago was flat on its back because of the strong yen, is strong domestic demand.

Alarmed by the damage done to its exporters by the surging yen, the government loosened its tight hold on public finances last year and sharply increased construction spending.

Low interest rates have ignited a housing boom and consumers have stepped up spending on electronics and other goods to put in their new homes.

Fastest

Encouraged by the strong domestic economy, Japanese companies have begun to rebuild inventories and step up spending on new plant and equipment.

"Public and private investment is very strong," one government economist said.

He estimated that the economy may have risen by about 1.5 per cent in the October/December quarter from the previous

quarter. That would translate into an annual growth rate of about six per cent and compares favourably with forecasts of US economic growth of around two per cent in 1988.

The Japanese economy rose two per cent quarter-on-quarter in the July/September period, the fastest growth in 3 1/2 years.

Meanwhile, many Japanese oil companies and trading houses lost billions of dollars in speculative oil trading last year, Reuters reported yesterday.

Analysts blamed US banks for encouraging oil companies to trade heavily in volatile oil futures, especially on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) where prospective buyers and sellers can hedge or speculate on the future price of the commodity, the report added.

It said many Japanese traders guessed wrong and did not have the futures market experience to

cut their losses.

Some investment bankers not only wrote, but also gave seminars on the subject, according to the report.

"They created a whole new activity for the oil industry. Some oil companies got excited, thought it was a whole new world and stopped behaving like oil companies," the report pointed out.

Meanwhile, Japan imported about 18 million kilolitres of crude last month, a 5.9 per cent increase over the December 1987 levels, according to figures released here by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Of the total, more than 70 per cent came from Opec countries with the UAE leading with 3.70 million kl.

Other Opec countries supplying crude to Japan during the month were Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and Iraq.

Fed conditionally agrees takeover of Irving Bank

WASHINGTON, Feb 26, (Reuters): The US central bank has allowed Bank of New York Co to proceed with its hostile takeover of Irving Bank Co but imposed new conditions on the financing of the deal.

While the Federal Reserve Bank's approval clears away the last major regulatory hurdle to the takeover, it would require the Bank of New York to sell stock to finance about 60 per cent of the cash portion of the estimated \$1.1-billion takeover price.

The central bank's decision was announced late on Thursday.

Within six months of the completion of the merger, the Fed said that the new bank, which would be the country's 12th largest, would have to sell more stock to cover the remaining 40 per cent of the cash that would be paid to Irving's current shareholders.

Bank of New York is proposing paying Irving shareholders 15 dollars-a-share cash plus 1.575 of its shares for each Irving share, for a total value of more

than \$61 a share at current market prices.

The Fed said the total cash portion of the deal would be \$264 million.

The Fed said it imposed the financing condition because of concerns it had about the equity-to-assets ratio of the surviving company after the cash payments to Irving's current shareholders is made.

In deciding not to block the takeover, the Fed noted that federal law does not distinguish between friendly and hostile combinations of banks.

In the normally gentlemanly world of banking, Bank of New York's hostile pursuit of Irving is highly unusual.

Irving Bank has been fighting Bank of New York's takeover proposal ever since it was first launched last September with a deal valued at \$1.49 billion.

Largely because of the October stock market crash, Bank of New York has twice reduced its bid, with the latest package of cash and stock valued at about \$1.1 billion.

Oil prices tumble amid oversupply fears

NEW YORK, Feb 26, (AP): Oil prices plunged yesterday, pressured by accelerating worries about overproduction, technical factors and a report showing larger-than-expected US inventories, analysts said.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, contracts for April delivery of West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark US crude oil, closed at \$15.92 per 42-gallon barrel, down 54 cents from Wednesday.

It was the first time the near-month crude contract closed below \$16 since Dec 21, when it settled at \$15.16.

Among March contracts for refined products, wholesale

beating oil closed at 45.22 cents a gallon, down 1.18 cents from Wednesday, while wholesale unleaded gasoline settled at 45.37 cents a gallon, 0.98 cent lower. One gallon equals 3.8 litres.

Decline

William Byers, an analyst at Bear, Stearns and Co. brokerage firm, said he believed the "catalyst" of the decline was a federal energy information administration report, issued on Wednesday night, that showed US crude inventories up by 8.5 million barrels last week.

That figure, much greater than the 1.88 million-barrel increase

reported on Tuesday by the American Petroleum Institute, a Washington-based trade organisation, shook the market, which was already edgy over continuing reports of growing oil production and inventories.

Opec is producing about 1 million barrels a day more than it was a month ago, and this perception is getting into the market — which isn't thrilled by it," said Peter Beutel, assistant director of the energy group at Elders Futures Inc.

Confidence

Analysts also said technical factors pushed oil futures prices lower.

In particular, the market's

confidence was shaken when the near-month crude contract broke below \$16.37, which had been seen as a very important support level," Beutel said.

Donald Morton, vice president for energy futures at the Boston office of Prudential-Bache Securities Inc., said the market got off on a sour note when it picked up on overnight declining prices for North Sea Brent crude — the main European grade — on the London market.

"The general feeling, psychology in the market was already very weak, very negative," he said. "So it gave ground and just broke."

Indonesia, Iran to set up joint economic committee

JAKARTA, Feb 26, (Opecna): Opec members Indonesia and Iran have agreed to set up a joint committee in a bid to increase direct trade and strengthen economic relations.

Issues related to direct trade between the two countries were discussed here at a meeting between Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Moehtar Kusumaatmadja and his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati. According to Kusumaatmadja, the setting up of the committee was important as trade between the countries was currently conducted through third countries, including Singapore.

He said that he also discussed the boosting of economic cooperation between the two countries as well as political issues.

World solar energy conference ends

BAGHDAD, Feb 26, (Opecna): The third Arab international conference on solar energy ended with a call for drawing up a joint plan to utilise renewable energy sources in the Arab countries.

The four-day gathering, which was concluded on Wednesday, underlined the need for intensive Arab cooperation with advanced countries in setting up joint projects in solar energy and the utilisation of their expertise in this field.

The conference discussed 116 reports, research papers and studies on solar radiation, wind energy, hydrogen production, solar heating and cooling techniques, solar transformation, chemical storing and planning in renewable energy resources.

BBK declares '87 loss after provisions

BAHRAIN, Feb 26, (Reuters): Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK), the largest commercial bank in Bahrain, reported a 23.4 million dinar (\$62 million) loss on 1987 accounts after raising provisions against bad and doubtful loans.

The bank, which was given a waiver by the central banks of Bahrain and Kuwait on provisions for 1986, said it set aside 29.2 million dinars (\$77 million) against loans for 1987.

This was more than nine times as much as in 1986 when the bank declared zero profit for a second year running and used its full 3.2 million dinars (\$8.5 million) in operating profits to build provisions against lending.

A brief statement of preliminary results said the increase in provisions was "to strengthen the bank's financial position and build a solid base for the future."

The bank, owned by institutional and private sharehol-

ders in Bahrain and Kuwait, said operating profit rose by 81 per cent in 1987 to 5.8 million dinars (\$15.4 million).

It was hard hit in the early 1980s when collateral on loans, in the form of stock and property, declined sharply in value. In contrast to some offshore banks which lent heavily to Latin America, much of the bank's exposure is in the Gulf region.

BBK's 1986 accounts were qualified by auditors Ernst and Whinney, which said there was a shortfall in loan provisions at the Kuwait when measured against the Central Bank of Kuwait's requirements.

Shortfall

Kuwait's Central Bank, with the agreement of the Bahrain monetary agency, guaranteed the shortfall which was to be met out of earnings in future years.

Banking sources said that waiver had been extended since

there was still a shortfall. BBK will omit its dividend for a third year running and does not intend to take any capital measures, they said.

BBK's statement said: "The board of directors reiterated its confidence in the bank which continues to enjoy considerable capital resources and solid support from its shareholders and the governments of the states of Bahrain and Kuwait."

The bank has launched a major reorganisation and, under new general manager Murad Al Murad drafted from Saudi-based National Commercial Bank, has moved into new headquarters in Central Manama.

Bankers estimate it holds about a quarter of the deposits in Bahrain's banking system. Its main rival, National Bank of Bahrain, held 1987 net profit unchanged at 4.4 million dinars (\$11.7 million).

US consumer prices rise 0.3pc

WASHINGTON, Feb 26, (Reuters): US consumer prices rose by a moderate 0.3 per cent in January after a 0.2 per cent rise in December, the Labour Department reported today.

Although energy prices declined for the second consecutive month and food price rises slowed, the department said January prices were driven higher by increases in housing costs, medical care and entertainment.

The January rise in the consumer price index was within the expectations of financial analysts who said they expected the inflation rate this year to be about the same as last year when prices rose by 4.4 per cent.

"We expect inflation to stay moderate this year, with no big increases, and energy will continue to hold the overall rise down," said Beth Mace, economist at Data Resources Inc.

Excluding food and energy, consumer prices would have risen 0.5 per cent last month, the department said.

In testimony to Congress this week, Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan said he saw no indication of an imminent acceleration in inflation, but added it was necessary to remain vigilant to prevent it from creeping up.

Improvement

Federal Reserve vice chairman Manuel Johnson said on Thursday that an improvement in inflationary expectations had allowed the US central bank to ease slightly on the money supply a few weeks ago to help nudge interest rates lower.

Greenspan said an inflation rate of three to four per cent would be acceptable. He said he expected oil price increases to abate this year but saw rising

import prices contributing to the inflationary pressures.

The dollar's decline has made imported goods more expensive.

Prices

Housing prices rose 0.4 per cent in January after a 0.3 per cent December increase. Household fuel prices fell for a second month in a row in January, led by a 0.8 per cent drop in fuel oil prices.

Transportation costs fell 0.1 per cent in January after a 0.3 per cent December decline, the department said.

New car prices fell 0.2 per cent in January after being unchanged a month earlier while the cost of financing new cars, which rose sharply last year, fell 0.7 per cent.

Petrol prices fell 1.6 per cent in January after a 1.7 per cent December decline but were 9.4 per cent above their year-ago level, the department said.

World Business Summary

Third World seeks special treatment in farm policy

BARILOCHE, Argentina, Feb 26, (Reuters): Developing nations in an agricultural free trade group said yesterday they will seek privileged treatment from industrial nations in the reform of world farm trade. They told the other members of the 14-nation Cairns Group that they have been hardest hit by distortions to world markets caused by the subsidies and farm support programmes of industrial nations, especially the United States and members of the European Economic Community.

Delegates said they would seek immediate steps towards a reduction of subsidies and levels of protection as well as a firm commitment from Washington and Europe towards a major reform of international agricultural trade. "Those policies have distorted the workings of the international market and caused special harm to developing nations," Brazilian Agriculture Minister Iria Rezende Machado said. Rezende Machado as well as representatives of Argentina, the Philippines, Colombia and other members of the group urged that the reform take into account the squeeze caused by the low prices paid for their agricultural exports, generally their main source of foreign exchange. The first steps toward farm policy reform should be taken by the industrial nations and benefit "those nations harmed by protectionist policies and subsidies," Rezende Machado said.

The Cairns Group, which also includes developed nations like Canada and Australia, opened a three-day ministerial meeting in this Argentine mountain resort to plot strategy for a December session of world trade negotiations.

The meeting comes at the half-way point of the so-called Uruguay round of world trade talks, launched at a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) meeting in Punta Del Este, Uruguay, in September, 1986. The representatives of some of the developing nations in Bariloche said the discrepancy between low prices for farm exports and heavy foreign debt burden was leading to a major net transfer of resources from poorer nations to richer ones.


Oman pledges support for Opec

MUSCAT, Feb 26, (Kuna): Omani Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Said Bin Ahmed Al Shanfari stressed the sultanate's support to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in its effort to stabilise the oil markets and price.

In an interview with Oman News Agency, Al Shanfari said that all oil producing countries, whether Opec members or not, have to support the organisation.

He pointed out that the sultanate decided earlier this month, and for the third time, to reduce its oil production by 5 per cent from 565,000 bpd to 536,750 bpd, of which 50,000 bpd goes to the refinery and 486,000 bpd of crude oil for export.

Referring to the sultanate's oil reserves, he said after 20 years of production, Oman will still have 3 billion barrels in reserves. Regarding natural gas production, Al Shanfari said reserves of associated and non-associated gas are estimated at approximately 9.36 trillion cubic feet of which 6.91 trillion cubic feet are non-associated gas. Talking about the sultanate's policy of diversification of sources of income, the minister said this policy will continue to reduce reliance on oil revenues. The minister of petroleum and minerals also said that coordination and consultation among members of the Gulf Cooperation Council in the field of energy is a continuous process in order to serve the interests of people in the region.



CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT

ANNOUNCEMENT

**For Subscription in Issue No. (6) for Treasury Bonds
Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987**

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of TREASURY BEARER BONDS in Kuwaiti Dinar for SUBSCRIPTION in compliance with the following Rules and Regulations:

- 1. AMOUNT OF ISSUE:**
The Amount of this Issue is KD 120 million distributed over FIVE Denominations as follows:
KD 1 000, KD 10 000, KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500,000
- 2. ISSUE DATE:** 9 / 3 / 1988
- 3. AMOUNTS, TERMS OF BONDS AND INTEREST RATES:**
 - A. TWO-YEARS BONDS** for KD 25 million Due on Saturday 10 / 3 / 1990,
Interest Rate of 5 3/4 % per annum,
to be paid at the end of every six months from Issue Date.
 - B. THREE-YEARS BONDS** for KD 25 million Due on Saturday 9 / 3 / 1991,
Interest Rate of 5 7/8 % per annum,
to be paid at the end of every six months from Issue Date.
 - C. FOUR-YEARS BONDS** for KD 35 million Due on Monday 9 / 3 / 1992,
Interest Rate of 6 % per annum,
to be paid at the end of every six months from Issue Date.
 - D. FIVE-YEARS BONDS** for KD 35 million Due on Tuesday 9 / 3 / 1993,
Interest Rate of 6 1/2 % per annum,
to be paid at the end of every six months from Issue Date.
- 4. OFFERING PERIOD:**
From: Sunday 28 / 2 / 1988
To : Tuesday 1 / 3 / 1988
- 5. ALLOTMENT:** 2 / 3 / 1988
- 6. DELIVERY OF BONDS:**
From: Saturday 12 / 3 / 1988
To : Monday 14 / 3 / 1988
- 7. The Provisions of this Issue shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bonds, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.**

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST	STG	DKK	FFR
ABBEY LIFE	253.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
ALD LYONS	355.0	2.985/999	2.99/540	10.1175/1290
AMSTRAD	159.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
ARGVLL GP	193.5	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
ASDA HFI	171.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
A B FOODS	290.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BAA PP	102.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BTR	270.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BAT UNDS	432.5	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BAYCLAYS	478.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BASS	808.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BEAZER	203.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BRECHANS	458.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BET ORD	245.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BICC PLC	333.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BLUE ARKW	100.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BLUE CIRC	436.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BOC GP	390.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BOOTS CO	217.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BPI HDS	285.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BR COM	300.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BR AIRWAY	165.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BR AEROSP	355.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BR GAS PP	135.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
B.P.	243.2	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
B.P. NEW	63.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BR TELCOM	243.2	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BRITOL	495.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BURTON	168.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
CABLESWIR	48.00	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
CADENOR	269.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
COATS VIV	253.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
COMM UNI	327.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
COMS GOLD	800.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
COOKSONS	555.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
COURTAULD	315.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
DALGETT	295.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
DEE GP	192.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
DIXONS	188.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
ENG CHINA	408.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
ENTER DIL	297.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
FERRANTI	84.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
FISONS	251.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
GEN ACCID	879.5	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
GEN ELEC	158.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
GLAXO	469.5	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
GRANDADA	323.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
GLOBE	141.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
GRAND MET	461.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
GUS A	090.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
GUARD RYL	890.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
GKN	321.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
GUINNESS	291.7	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
HARMES A	533.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
HANSON	137.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
HAWK SID	488.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
HILLES	105.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
HILLSDOWN	285.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	LAST	STG	DKK	FFR
A.B. ELECT	369.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
ARI NEW	243.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
APV PLC	132.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
AARONSON	120.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
AAH HGL	279.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
ADDISON G	86.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
ADVEST GP	323.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
ALEX WAKW	176.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
ALD IR B	215.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
ALLIANCE	808.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
ALD COLL	128.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
ALD PLAN	51.4	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
AMARI PLC	173.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
AMEC PLC	369.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
AMR TRUS	118.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
AMERSHAM	492.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
ANGLIA TV	431.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
ANSCHER	68.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
U-APP HOL	309.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
APPLYARD	369.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
APRICOT	108.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
ARMSTRONG	142.4	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
ANGLO D'S	393.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
AQUAS. A.	81.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
ASHLEY L	116.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
ATWOODS	288.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
AUTO SEC	238.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
AVIS EUR	318.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
AVON RUBB	630.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BSS INTL	67.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BAILL JAP	478.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BANKER IT	68.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BAK OF SCO	570.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BARKER DO	153.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BART DEV	189.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
B.MEMILL	155.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BEJAM GP	179.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BELHAVEN	44.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BELLWAY	225.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BENROSE	213.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BENLOX HD	46.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BNETT + F	36.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BENTALLS	193.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BERSIFORD	300.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BERKELEY	294.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BRKLY HAY	24.4	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BLCK L2	21.6	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BOCKE MAS	282.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BODDINGTO	145.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BOKER PL	39.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BORTHICK	49.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BOWATER	364.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BOUTHORPE	178.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BRAMMER	222.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BREIT CHE	133.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BRENT WKR	335.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BRIDON	146.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BRITANNIA	013.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BR ASSETS	66.4	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60
BR LND CO	276.0	1.6855/6935	2.985/999	29.475/635
BR VITA	435.0	1.775/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-OAYS/2	PREV-DR	PREV-TR
FT 30 ORD	1423.7	1433.9	1417.0	1373.3
FT 500 SHR	0	1007.5	995.3	957.6
FT ALL SHR	0	14.40	14.47	870.22
FT GOV SEC	0	90.01	89.76	88.49
FT GOLD NH	0	248.9	254.8	302.1
FT NINES F	0	417.41	418.48	450.65
FT DIL	0	1750.0	1726.7	1663.6
FT MLD DLR	123.55	123.12	123.06	115.04
FT MLD STG	103.81	102.97	102.97	90.79
FT MLD LOC	110.26	109.89	109.81	99.08

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS REMAIN DULL DESPITE SMALL U.S. UPTURN
LONDON, FEB 26 - SHARES REMAINED DULL IN LATE LONDON TRADING WITH THE SLIGHTLY HIGHER OPENING ON WALL STREET HAVING NO IMPACT ON SENTIMENT HERE, DEALERS SAID.
SHARES EASED FROM THE OUTSET AFTER YESTERDAY'S SURPRISE COLLAPSE ON THE U.S. MARKET, WHICH FOLLOWED COMMENTS BY THE FORMER U.S. FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD CHAIRMAN PAUL VOLCKER, WHO SAID U.S. INTEREST RATES WERE SET TO RISE IN THE SHORT-TERM. DEALERS SAID THE SCALE AND SPEED OF THE FALL ON WALL STREET HIGHLIGHTED THE FRAGILITY OF THE RECENT RALLY THERE.
THE FTSE 100 AT 1530 GMT WAS DOWN 12.1 POINTS AT 1,770.3 AFTER A LOW OF 1,769.1 JUST BEFORE THE U.S. OPENING.
DEALERS SAID GIVEN THE CURRENT LOW VOLUME, EQUITIES WOULD REMAIN SENSITIVE TO THE GRAYATIONS ON WALL STREET, WHERE THE DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE HAD FOR SOME TIME STRUGGLED TO BREACH THE 2,050 UPSIDE RESISTANCE LEVEL. A RELATIVELY MODEST 275 MLN SHARES HAD CHANGED HANDS IN LONDON BY 1500 GMT.
YESTERDAY SAW A SMALL UPTURN IN BUSINESS, BUT MANY INVESTORS CONTINUED TO KEEP THEIR CASH FIRMLY IN SAFER FIXED INTEREST INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS GOVERNMENT BONDS.
WORRIES ABOUT MONDAY'S U.K. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DATA FOR JANUARY IS ALSO KEEPING INVESTORS OUT OF SHARES BUT MANY EXPECT AN IMPROVEMENT OVER DECEMBER'S 580 MLN STG CURRENT ACCOUNT GAP.

London Gold

LONDON, FEB 26 - GOLD BULLION RECOVERED SLIGHTLY FROM AN EARLIER 10-1/2 MONTH LOW ON PRE-WEEKEND SHORTCOVERING TO END THE DAY AT 431.50/432.00 DLR AN OUNCE, SLIGHTLY ABOVE ITS PREVIOUS CLOSE OF 431.00/431.50.
THE METAL SLIPPED TO A LOW OF 429.75/430.25 DLR AN OUNCE DURING THE AFTERNOON FIXING SESSION, AND IT WAS FINALLY SET AT 430.45. THE FIX WAS THE LOWEST SINCE APRIL 9, 1987. DEALERS SAID PRICES HAD COME UNDER PRESSURE EARLY IN THE AFTERNOON AS COMEX TRADERS WENT SHORT IN A BID TO TEST SUPPORT AROUND 429/430 DLR AN OUNCE, BASIS APRIL.

London Money Market

LONDON, FEB 26 - U.K. MONEY RATES FINISHED THE DAY SLIGHTLY FIRMER, WITH DEALERS RELUCTANT TO TAKE POSITIONS AHEAD OF THE U.K. TRADE DATA ON MONDAY AND THE U.K. BUDGET ON MARCH 15.
FEARS OF HIGHER BASE RATES REMAIN IN THE BACKGROUND. "WE'RE JUST BIDDING OUR TIME UNTIL THE CHANCELLOR WROTE FOOTS US AGAIN," A DEALER SAID.
A CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT OF 400 MLN STG FOR JANUARY HAS ALREADY BEEN DISCOUNTED IN THE MARKET. DEALERS HAVE ADOPTED A PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACH TO THE LATEST FIGURES BUT IF THE OUTTURN IS ANYTHING LIKE THE 582 MLN STG AND 595 MLN STG DEFICITS OF THE PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS THERE COULD BE AN UPSET.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	DPEN
DLR	1.7725/35	1.6875/85	5.7140/60	10.1175/1290
STG	1.7705/15	2.985/999	29.475/635	100
DMK	1.6855/6935	10.1145/1325	38.040/640	1300
FFR	5.709/723	2.4608/4640	82.22/33	1300
SFR	1.3895/3905	3.3580	112.26	1300
NFL	1.8970	0.690028	2.06639	6.98087
ECU	1.22307	0.769858	2.30274	7.79570
SDR	1.35495	227.24/55		
YEN	128.35/45	25/02/1988		
SDR RATES		OTHERS		26/02/1988

BRIXTON E	259/0	259/0	HYTHWOOD W	280/0	281/0
BULNER NP	160/0	160/0	HIGSON, IN	165/0	165/0
BURGESS	242/0		HICKS-WHIL	319/0	317/0
CRN PLC	118/0	118/0	H'LAND DIS	88/0	88/0
U-CPU COM	92/0	92/0	HOEG GARD	140/0	140/0
CALEDONIA	344/0	342/0	HOGES TST	250/0	252/0
CALOR GRP	550.0	545.0	HOLMES PR	119/0	119/0
CANNON ST	270/0	270/0	HOLDEN GR	99/0	99/0
CAP GROUP	204/0	206/0	U-HUGHES	100/0	100/0
CAP.RADIO	190/0	190/0	IBSTK. JSE	185/0	185/0
CARADON	302/0	305/0	ICE, FZ. PD	310/0	310/0
CARLO EN	160/0	161/0	INTL MYTL	370/0	365/0
CARLESS C	105/0	106/0	INCRPAC	675/0	675/0
CARTON C	721/0	718/0	INDPMDT	40/4	41/0
CATER ALL	340/0	340/0	INDPMDT W	11/0	11/0
CENTL ITV	554/0	553/0	INT. BU. CN	116/0	114/0
CHATER CN	297/0	298/0	INVDGN. DS	205/0	205/0
CHARTERNA	31/4	31/0	INVTSTR. C	319/0	318/0
CHORIDE	56/0	57/0	INT. CTS. HS	183/0	182/0
CHRISTIES	513/0	510/0	JNSN. MATH	264/0	245/0
CHAS. CHUR	107/0	108/0	KALON	32/0	32/0
U-CIFER	18/0	18/0	KENDY. BARK	274/0	273/0
U-CUFF	100/0	101/0	KETSON	73/0	73/0
CLYDE PET	117/0	117/0	KLMT. BWS	338/0	339/0
COALITE	326/0	327/0	KLEIN OB	121/0	120/0
COATES RS	350/0	350/0	KLWKFIT N	200/0	200/0
CASE GP	63/0	63/0	KWIKSAVE	314/0	313/0
COLLINS W	578/0	578/0	U-KUNICK	35/4	36/0
COLLINS A	458/0	458/0	LBN. INT. G	284/0	285/0
CNTRL. SEC	46/0	46/0	LAIRD GRP.	233/0	235/0
COLORELL	227/0	226/0	LAING(JC)	288/0	288/0
COLORELL FR	227/0	226/0	LAING(JJA)	288/0	288/0
CI GROUP	45/0	46/0	LAING PRO	410/0	408/0
COINAST G	288/0	288/0	LAMONT HD	253/0	255/0
COURTS A	184/0	183/0	LAMONT JR	282/0	282/0
COWIE (T)	123/0	123/0	LARUCE. W	140/0	139/0
CREST NIC	210/0	210/0	LEIGH INT	194/0	194/0
CRODA INT	190/0	190/0	LEK SERVCS	323/0	323/0
CROWTHER	119/0	118/0	LILLET-JF	42/0	42/0
CRYSTALAT	162/0	162/0	LOGICA	283/0	282/0
DARES EST	31/4	31/0	LON FORST	155/0	155/0
CRESST JAY	143/0	143/0	LON-HCHT	275/0	272/0
DANSON IN	212/0	213/0	LON-MHE	156/0	155/0
DE LA RUE	401/0	398/0	LON INV T	26/0	26/0
DELTA GP	264/0	263/0	LASMO QPO	160/0	160/0
U-DEWEY W	107/0	105/0	LON SHOP	212/0	212/0
DRG PLC	386/0	386/0	LON. LTD. I	201/0	200/0
DIPLOMA	214/0	212/0	LOVELL HD	227/0	226/0
DRAYTON J	875/0	875/0	LON-BONAR	222/0	222/0
DRAYTON C	431/0	430/0	LOVACHO	575/0	575/0
DUWILL	165/0	165/0	LOUE HOME	353/0	355/0
DUWILL RS	16/0	16/0	LTD HDGS	159/0	157/0
EDIN. CFT	96/0	95/0	H-G GROUP	349/0	351/0
EDIN INR	149/0	148/0	MACARTH G	298/0	295/0
U-ELDRGE	351/0	350/0	MCHY-STR	473/0	474/0
ELECTECLA	196/0	195/0	MCKNIE. PL	315/0	314/0
ELECTROCON	186/0	186/0	MNSFLD. BP	457/0	457/0
ELECTRIC RENT	99/0	99/0	MNCALPINE	465/0	465/0
ELLIS LVA	168/0	168/0	MARLET	155/0	155/0
ENAP. PLC	199/0	198/0	KSTN. THO	116/0	117/0
ELLIS LVA	168/0	168/0	MATTHEWS	89/0	89/0
ENAMPRE ST	238/0	238/0	MCCABE. J	194/0	195/0
ETAM	267/0	266/0	MENZIES	330/0	330/0
EUTROTHERM	324/0	325/0	MERCIT. TS	140/0	139/0
EUTROTN GR	278/0	279/0	U-MRRVYAN	338/0	390/0
U-EXR W RG	20/0	20/0	METALRAX	84/0	83/0
EVEREHL HD	116/0	116/0	MEYER INT	375/0	375/0
U-EXVODE GP	157/0	157/0	U-NICROWT	36/0	35/0
U-EXPLAUR	31/4	32/0	MAI PLC	100/0	100/0
KRICK BABCK	134/4	134/0	MIDSUMMER	326/0	327/0
FARNELL E	156/0	156/0	MINER HDG	478/0	478/0
FEDER. HOUSN	265/0	245/0	U-MOLIN. V	36/0	36/0
FENNER. S	168/0	168/0	MONKS IT	207/0	205/0
FERGUSON S	288/0	288/0	U-MORGIS GR	259/0	259/0
F-FIELDS N	129/0	123/0	H-HARRIS W	11/0	10/4
FINE. ARTS	234/0	233/0	MOUNTLEIGH	151/4	154/0
FINLAN GP	77/0	76/0	MGRN CURR	239/0	238/0
U-FLEWING J	208/0	208/0	MGRTE. NER	133/0	
F & C PAC	120/0	121/0	MORRANO+CH	489/0	487/0
FIRST JY	92/0	91/0	MNRSL. SHL	251/0	250/0
FIRSTLY. LEX	526/0	525/0	MT. CNT. N	121/0	120/0
FIRST NAT	237/0	237/0	NORREAN J	392/0	391/0
ST SCOT	394/0	392/0	MUCKLOW G	142/0	143/0
FLOTTLOV	161/0	260/0	MRRY. LINT	171/0	171/0
ORCOK. IT	103/4	103/0	MRRY. INT.	165/0	165/0
OSCECO MI	225/0	224/0	N-TOKYD I	145/0	145/0
U-LWG. FE. I	175/0	175/0	NEWARTHILL	275/0	275/0
U-LWG. AN. I	116/0	116/0	NWAH-TONK	182/0	180/0
U-LWG. MERC	166/0	165/0	NW. INT	111/0	111/0
U-LWG. OSEA	154/0	155/0	NWS INTLT	260/0	260/0
R GROUP	278/0	281/0	NORCORD	399/0	398/0
U-FLOYD D	32/0	33/0	NORWARS G	54/4	55/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	NRLFK. CN	26/4	26/4
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	N. AM. TRUS	358/0	356/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	N. ENG. IND	97/0	96/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	NORNDHPCO	139/0	139/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	NORTON OF	142/0	143/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	OCEAN T&T	273/0	273/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	OCEANICS	20/0	20/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	OWNERS AB	76/0	76/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	OXFORD INS	236/0	237/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PAC. ASST.	108/0	110/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PRKFLD GR	335/0	334/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PEACNT PR	400/0	398/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PENTLAND	127/0	127/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PHOENIX	92/4	91/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PHICOM	53/0	53/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PICKWICK	181/0	182/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PLEASURAR	165/0	165/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	POLLY-PEC	295/0	292/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PROMET DU	336/0	333/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PREED A	117/0	117/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PREL D	153/0	151/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PRMR. C.O.	64/0	65/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	PROFOOT A	242/0	243/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	U-PROP TS	2/6	
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	QUEENS N	94/0	95/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	RATNE IND	91/0	92/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	U-RANDS	129/0	128/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	RATHERS	228/0	228/0
U-FORD H	87/0	88/0	RHP GROUP	205/0	207/0

International Bond Highlights

London — Oji Paper Co Ltd is issuing a 250 mln dlr equity warrant Eurobond due March 16, 1993 with an indicated coupon of 4-3/4 pct and par pricing, lead manager Nomura International Ltd said. (RTTP 1058)

London — Deutsche Bank Finance (Curacao) NV, a unit of Deutsche Bank AG, is issuing a 200 mln dlr Eurobond due March 25, 1993, paying 8-1/4 pct and priced at 101-1/8 pct, Deutsche Bank Capital Markets Ltd said as lead manager. (RTUJ 1122)

Amsterdam — Unilever NV of Rotterdam is issuing a 200 mln guilder, 5.75 pct, seven-year Eurobond at 101.00 pct, lead manager Algemene Bank Nederland NV said. (RTUV 1435)

London — Svenska Handelsbanken is issuing a 10 billion yen Eurobond with bull and bear tranches due March 24, 1993, paying seven pct and priced at 102 pct, Sumitomo Trust International Ltd said as lead manager. (RTUG 1122)

Frankfurt — Australian Industry Development Corp is issuing a three-year 75 mln Australian dlr bond with a 12-3/4 pct coupon priced at 101-1/2, lead manager Commerzbank AG said. (RTUP 1151)

London — The Kinki Sogo Bank Ltd is issuing a 50 mln dlr convertible Eurobond due March 31, 2003 with an indicated semi-annual coupon of 2-7/8 pct and par pricing, lead manager Nomura International Ltd said. (RTUK 1141)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 9-8-7/8	9-8-7/8	9-8-7/8
FFY 3.45/55	3.30/40	3.35/45
PAR 7-3/16 1/4	7-1/4 3/8	7-9/16 11/16
ZUR 1/8 3/8	1-1/4 1-1/2	1-3/8 1-7/8
BRX 2/60	6-1/8 1/4	6-1/8 1/4
ROM 10 10-1/2	10-3/4 11-1/4	10-7/8 11-3/8
AMS 3-1/4 3-3/4	3-15/16 4-1/16	4-0/0 4-1/8
TOK 3.3750 4375	3.8750 9375	3.7500 8125
ECU 6.06 6.31	6.06 6.18	6.31 6.43

Interest Rates

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	4-15/16	5-3/8
3 months	4-15/16	5-7/16
6 months	5-1/16	5-9/16
1 year	5-1/16	5-9/16

FOLLOWING are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait.

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GLINDIA	65	64.50	64	63.50	510	500	510
ACC	144	144	139	GRASIN	87	86.50	86.50	NOCL	430	430
ASIA PAINT	145	146.25	147.50	CHS	19	19	19	CHS	19	19
SAJAJ AUTO	396.25	396	390	NIND LEVER	67	66.50	67	PEICO	27	26.50
BAR. RATON	150	140	150	HINDALCO	120	120	119.50	PFIZER	69	68
BOM. OTING	126.25	125.50	125	NINDCOCA	75	75	77.50	PRE. AUTO	25	24
BR. BOND	79.50	78	78.50	NINDMOTR	20	19.25	18.75	RAYMOND	45	44.50
BSE INDEX	406.83	404.18	404.18	IND ORG	17.50	18	17.50	RELIANCE	86	85
CENTURYSPG	652.50	655	655	INDRATON	50	49	49.50	SIEMENS	67	66
COLGATE	191.25	187.50	190	INDROL	175	173.75	167.50	SPIC	31	30.50
DEEPAKERT	29.50	28.50	28.50	ITC	32	31	31.50	SHRILLS	230	230
EI. HOTEL	42	40	42	JYNTN	51	50.50	50	TATA PIR	178.50	177.50
ESKATEF	196.25	195	195	L AND T	78	78	77	TATACHEM	63	61.50
ESSAR	18	17.75	17.51	MAHINDRA	52.50	54	53.50	TELOO	355	355
GAR. POLT	78	77.50	77	MASTERSHR	9	9	9	TISCO	588.75	582.50
GE. SNIP	23.75	23.75	23.85	MATHER PL	98.75	98	97.50	VOLTAS	260	252.50

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLSE
AGG	229.8	238.5
ALLIANZ VR	1340.0	1385.0
BADENWERK	185.0	177.5
BASF	245.4	248.5
BAYER	265.4	268.0
BAYER HYP	344.0	350.0
BAYER VER	338.0	344.0
BBC	295.0	309.0
BIF	322.0	327.0
BHW	531.0	542.0
CEMITE-VER	0	120.0
COMETZSK	232.7	235.5
CONTI GUMM	225.0	227.0
DATMER BEN	688.0	702.0
DEUTSCH BNK	438.0	441.0
DLW	313.0	321.0
DRESDNER B	244.0	249.0
F&M INDEX	455.51	459.68
FRANKFURT	235.0	235.0
GUINHOFF	396.5	397.0
HANSEATIC AG	255.0	258.8
HESCH	107.0	108.9
HORTEN	175.0	177.5
HUSSEL HD	430.0	433.0
KALI SALZ	142.0	134.8
KARSTADT	410.0	413.0
KAUFHOF	363.0	371.8
KLOECK H	94.0	95.0
KLOECK W	0	67.5
LINDE	562.0	570.0
LUFTHANSA	142.0	143.0
MAN	157.0	161.0
MANHESMAN	121.0	125.5
MERCEDES	544.5	558.0
METALLURGE	208.5	213.9
MIDKORF PF	535.0	539.3
MORSK HTO	46.80	47.00
PHILIP KOM	643.0	644.0
POKSCHE	479.0	485.0
PREUSSAG	125.5	124.0
PWA	105.5	101.0
RHEIN	203.0	214.5
RHEIN P	199.0	209.2
RHEINMETAL	255.0	255.0
SALAMANDER	256.0	261.0
SCHERING	441.0	447.0
SEL	325.0	337.0
SIEMENS	386.5	393.8
THYSSEN	122.5	125.0
VARTA	252.5	257.0
VEBA	258.2	258.8
VEW	163.0	163.0
VOLKSWAGEN	246.5	252.0

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLSE
C N TUNNEL	13.90	14.00
CHINA K	6.95	6.75
CHINA GAS	15.50	15.40
CHINA L-P	18.20	18.00
CHINA MOTR	17.00	17.00
COSMO PROP	4.30	4.30
EVERGOLD	.32	.33
FAR EAST C	.69	.68
GEN ORIENT	0	44.00
H C DEVELOP	8.35	8.35
H S INDEX	383.92	355.88
HANG SENG	4.40	4.40
HANG SENG	29.00	28.80
HAN PAR BR	0	21.00
HK ELEC CO	7.60	7.55
HK KOWLOON	6.25	6.00
HK LAND CO	7.35	7.10
HK SHAN BK	7.00	6.90
HK SHAN HT	3.80	3.75
HK TELE CO	7.15	7.25
HUTCH WHAM	7.70	7.60
IND EDC PAC	6.90	6.85
JARDINE M	10.70	10.50
KOWLOON M	10.70	10.60
NEW WORLD	3.20	3.15
PAUL Y CON	1.61	1.58
PEALTY DEV	5.30	5.30
S H K CO	1.60	1.55
S H K PRDP	8.75	8.50
SIME DARBY	1.42	1.40
STELLUX MFG	5.05	5.00
SWIRE PAC	16.00	15.60
T V B CO	13.00	12.90
TAI CHEUNG	3.07	2.95
UNITED BANK	1.56	1.58
WOCK HAO	0	7.25
WOCK HAO	0	1.15
WORLD INTL	2.95	2.85

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLSE
AIJINOMOTO	3360	3400
AKAI ELEC	513	513
AKAI	1020	1010
ASANI GAS	1900	1910
ASANI OPT	586	600
BAIKI TOKYO	1530	1540
BRIDGESTON	1390	1420
CANON	1110	1070
CASIO COMP	1220	1220
CHUGAI MFG	0	1710
CITIZEN W	594	598
D-ICI KAN	3230	3230
DAI NIP IK	785	786
DAI NIP PT	2580	2580
DAI NIP SC	972	970
DAI NIP TO	485	485
DATCEL	805	810
DAIWA H	1790	1790
DAIWA SEC	2710	2720
EBARA MFG	832	828
ELSAI	2500	2500
FUJITSU	1480	1450
FUJI BANK	3440	3460
FUJI PHOTO	4040	4020
FUJITSAMA	2020	2040
FUJITA CP	764	754
HITACHI	1330	1290
HONDA MOT	1520	1500
ISSETAN	1400	1380
ITO YOKADO	4250	4300
JAP SYN RU	1060	1050
JAPAN AIR	14300	14600
JAPAN MET	447	451
KAJIMA	1590	1580
KANSAI EL	2950	2960
KAO SOAP	1940	1930
KAWASAKI H	329	324
KAWASAKI S	367	369
KIRIN BREW	2300	2300
KOMATSU	615	610
KUBOTA LTD	636	600
KYOCERA	5410	5430
MAKITA EL	1820	1830
MARUI	3110	3090
MATSUTA EI	2320	2280
MATSUDA EL	2250	2280
MEIJI SEIK	923	921
MITSUBI CP	1260	1240
MITSUBI EL	651	653
MITSUBI EST	2200	2210
MITSUBI HYP	637	620
MITSUBI CO	780	784
MITSUBISHI	1520	1510
MITSUBISHI	1270	1310
NICHOLSON	1330	1330
NITRON CHMT	801	807
NIKKO SEC	2080	2110
NIP ELEC	2050	2000
NIP KOKKAI	322	328
NIP OIL	1220	1220
NIP STEEL	424	424
NIP YEN	569	559
NIS MOTOR	830	820
NOMURA SEC	3910	3950
OHSA CO	1010	1010
OLYMPIA	1130	1150
PENTA OCN	865	870
PIONEER	2850	2800
RENOMI	825	825
RICOH	1210	1190
SANKYO	2140	2140
SANYO ELEC	527	528
SEIYU ST	2520	2510
SEKISUI PB	1900	1890
SHARP	986	966
SHISEIDO	1720	1740
SONY	4870	4800
SUNITOMO	1130	1130
TAISEI	952	953
TAISHO MHN	1190	1220
TAKEDA CH	3140	3110
TEI ICH	793	800
TOYO MEX IX	72.08	71.93
TOKIO MHN	2070	2080
TOKYO ELEC	1170	1180
TOKYO GAS	1060	1080
TORAY IND	801	810
TOSHIBA EL	790	775
TOTO	2290	2290
TOYO KONGY	429	430
TOYOTA MOT	2210	2220
YAMADA	1020	1070
YAMATCHI	2080	2100
YAMAMOTO	4120	4080
YAMAZAKI	1510	1520

Tokyo Stock Market Report

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSED HIGHER FOR 12TH STRAIGHT DAY. TOKYO, FEB 26 — SHARE PRICES CLOSED UP FOR THE 12TH CONSECUTIVE SESSION IN ROBUST TRADE, ON BUYING PROPELLED BY A DOLLAR STABILITY, GOOD DOMESTIC ECONOMIC GROWTH, AND PROMISING COMPANY PROFITS, BROKERS SAID.

"BEFORE, PEOPLE TOOK THE STANCE TO SELL WHEN THE MARKET REACHED CERTAIN LEVELS," SAID BROKER ROBERT KARR OF NEW JAPAN SECURITIES. "BUT NOW THEY FEEL IF THEY SELL, THEY WILL MISS OUT, SO SELLING PRESSURE HAS DISAPPEARED."

THE NIKKEI INDEX ROSE 64.52 POINTS, OR 0.26 PCT, TO 25,165.18. IT GAINED 132.01 POINTS ON THURSDAY. RISES MATCHED FALLS IN VOLUME OF 1.3 BILLION SHARES AGAINST 900 MLN.

RUBBER, CREDIT/LEASE, REAL ESTATE, ELECTRONIC, ROLLING STOCK, PRECISION INSTRUMENT, NON-FERROUS METAL, MACHINERY, CONSTRUCTION AND MINING SHARES ROSE.

SECURITIES HOUSE, AIRLINE, WAREHOUSE, RETAIL, NON-LIFE INSURANCE, GAS, COMMUNICATIONS AND TEXTILE ISSUES FELL.

THERE WAS LITTLE IN TERMS OF FRESH INCENTIVES TODAY, BROKERS SAID, WITH BULLISH SENTIMENT OVERCOMING A MORNING BOUT OF PROFIT-TAKING WHICH SENT THE INDEX TO A LOW OF 25,019.69.

INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS HAVE RECENTLY CHANGED THEIR PORTFOLIO WEIGHTINGS BY INCREASING THE FLOW OF MONEY INTO EQUITIES, WHICH IS PICKING UP THE MARKET, BROKERS SAID.

AFTER THE OCTOBER CRASH, INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS HAD HEAVY CASH POSITIONS. NOW THEY ARE LOOKING AT THEIR OPTIONS, AND LOWER TRENDS IN INTEREST RATES AND A STRONG ECONOMY ARE POINTING THEM IN THE DIRECTION OF STOCKS, BROKERS SAID.

THE NIKKEI INDEX HAS RISEN 1,502.91 POINTS IN THE LAST 12 SESSIONS. IT HAS ONLY RISEN FOR 12 CONSECUTIVE SESSIONS THREE TIMES BEFORE, AND SOME BROKERS FEEL IT MAY BREAK THE RECORD OF 14 STRAIGHT GAINS SET IN DECEMBER 1960 AND JANUARY 1961.

"YOU CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN THE STRENGTH OF THE MARKET," A BROKER SAID. "EVERYONE KEEPS SAYING THIS IS THE LAST DAY, AND IT KEEPS GOING UP."

Hong Kong Market Report

HONG KONG, FEB 26 — SHARE PRICES CLOSED HIGHER IN ACTIVE TRADING BUOYED BY IMPROVED SENTIMENT FOLLOWING 12 CONSECUTIVE DAYS OF GAINS IN TOKYO, BROKERS SAID.

THE HANG SENG INDEX ENDED 28.04 POINTS HIGHER AT 2,383.92, WHILE THE BROADER BASED HONG KONG INDEX ROSE 19.08 TO 1,561.96. TURNOVER CLIMBED TO 836.81 MLN H.K. DLS FROM THURSDAY'S 526.49 MLN.

BROKERS SAID OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS WERE BUYING HONG KONG STOCKS BECAUSE THEY WERE CHEAP COMPARED WITH THOSE OF OTHER ASIAN CENTRES.

AMMAN

As of 24.2.88	OPMG	CLSE
AL NISIR MINERALS	0.79	0.79
AL NISIR EXCHANGE	0.89	0.90
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.34	1.34
ALA ALLIUMIN IND.	1.91	1.93
ARAB BANK	119.9	118.5
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	4.29	4.36
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.47	1.48
ARAB INSURANCE	1.00	1.00
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	0.95	0.96
ARAB INT. UNION INS	0.53	0.58
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	2.09	2.10
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	0.36	0.35
ARAB PAPER CON/TRA	2.09	2.08
ARAB PHARMA/CHEN	0.76	0.75
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	16.32	16.32
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	29.00	29.00
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.42	0.41
DAR ALDAHA DV/INV.	1.49	1.47
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	0.44	0.44
DEVELOP/INVEST/FAS.	0.62	0.62
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.62	0.62
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.30	1.30
GENERAL MINING	1.50	1.50
HOLY LAND INS.	1.15	1.20
IND./MATCH JEMCO	0.73	0.73
INDSTR. DEVLPT BAK	1.29	1.30
INDSTR. COMM/AGR.	1.49	1.49
INDUSTRIAL INVEST	1.52	1.53
INTERMED/PETRO/CH	0.64	0.64
INTERN. CO/INV	0.97	0.98
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.64	0.64
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	3.50	3.20
JERUSALEM INS.	1.28	1.28
JOB YABACCO/CIGARET	13.50	13.55
JOR CEMENT FACT.	1.03	1.03
JOR CEMENT FACTOR	1.06	1.06
JOR EASLE INS.	25.01	25.05

Sprinkel happy with US money supply targets

PARIS, Feb 26, (AP): Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers, said yesterday the modified money supply target ranges for 1983 set by the Federal Reserve Board — the American Central Bank — are "appropriate."

Sprinkel, in Paris to attend a special meeting of economic policymakers today said he was "delighted" with the testimony of Fed chairman Alan Greenspan before the House Banking Committee on Tuesday.

At the hearing, Greenspan indicated that the Federal Reserve Board's Open Market Committee (FOMC) had set target ranges of 4 per cent to 8 per cent for the M2 and M3 aggregates, representing a decrease of one percentage point in terms of their midpoints compared with 1982. M2 and M3 include time deposits as well as checking accounts and cash included in the M1 category of the US money supply.

Decision
Sprinkel said the committee's decision to try to go down the middle of those ranges, with a growth rate of around 6 per cent, is indeed appropriate.

"The US President (Reagan) administration is just as concerned about inflation as the Federal Reserve Board... we don't want the adoption of policies that will lead to a re-acceleration of inflation," he told a group of journalists.

Sprinkel said he was confident that the US real net export deficit, which has been improving since the third quarter of 1982, would continue improving at a somewhat faster pace in 1983, declining by between \$40-45 billion.

He acknowledged, however, that the improvement of the trade deficit in nominal terms is taking somewhat longer to show despite what he described as an export "bonanza" in the United States.

Britoil drops resistance to BP bid

LONDON, Feb 26, (AP): Britoil Plc has dropped its resistance to British Petroleum Co. Plc's £2.5 billion takeover offer for the North Sea oil company even though Britoil still believes it is inadequate.

Britoil's board of directors said Thursday it was advising its shareholders to accept the offer of 500 pence (£8.80) for Britoil's 504 million shares outstanding.

The Britoil board had vigorously opposed the company's takeover by BP, which controls 81 per cent of Britoil's stock.

The government announced on Tuesday that it wouldn't use its special share in Britoil to block the offer, as long as BP kept promises to meet certain conditions.

Operations
Among the conditions were that BP would maintain the headquarters for some of Britoil's operations in Glasgow, Scotland.

The government had retained the special share — which gives it the veto power over the company's affairs — when it privatised Britoil in two stages in 1982 and 1983.

Britoil chairman Sir Philip Shelbourne said in a letter to shareholders: "Your board continues to believe that 500 pence (£8.80) represents an inadequate price for an ordinary share in Britoil, but there are now considerable uncertainties confronting shareholders who might wish to remain a minority in Britoil."

He said the continued listing of the company's shares could not be guaranteed and that the market value of the shares would likely fall after the BP offer closes.

The offer currently is open indefinitely.

UK unveils plans to privatise electricity industry

LONDON, Feb 26, (Reuters): Britain yesterday unveiled controversial plans to privatise its electricity industry in the most ambitious move yet in Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's sale of state-owned companies into private ownership.

Energy Minister Cecil Parkinson told parliament that the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) in England and Wales will be sold off for £27 billion and would be split into three different companies.

"My proposal will create a modern competition industry, owned by the public and responsive to the needs of customers and employees," he said. "There are real benefits in prospect."

The sale dwarfs previous sell-

Gold gains

Dollar and stocks edge lower

LONDON, Feb 26, (Reuters): The dollar edged lower today because of worries over the US economy and most European stock exchanges lost ground after a 22-point slide on Wall Street yesterday, dealers said.

Tokyo share prices closed up for the 12th consecutive session today, propelled by a more stable dollar, good domestic economic growth, and promising company profits, brokers said.

"You can't really explain the strength of the market," a broker said. "Everyone keeps saying this is the last day, and it keeps going up."

The key Tokyo share index rose 64.52 points, or 0.26 per cent to 25,165.18.

Pressure
"Before, people took the stance to sell when the market reached certain levels," said broker Robert Karr of new Japan Securities. "But now they feel if they sell, they will miss out, so selling pressure has disap-

peared."

Gold which has been around 10-month lows for most of the week, gained slightly in London this morning, being fixed at \$432.65 an ounce compared with \$432.10 yesterday afternoon.

The dollar traded at midday at just below 1.69 West German marks and 128.50 yen after closing in London yesterday at 1.6965 marks and 128.73 yen. Dealers said it was still under the spell of US gross national product figures for the last three months of 1982 which were issued in Washington yesterday.

GNP growth was revised upwards, but the rate turned out to be below market expectations.

Confident
"The market is a bit more confident that the dollar is going to test the downside soon," said a chief dealer at a major US bank in London. "The GNP figures were the spur, in fact the excuse for a bout of dollar selling," he added.

Business
In addition, foreign-owned telephone firms offering telecommunications services in the United States must report the extent of their business and revenues.

Cable and Wireless of Britain and FCC communications, which is partly owned by French interests, are among firms that will be affected by the requirement, FCC officials said.

The FCC also said it would study global arrangements on rates which it said kept prices for international telephone calls far below actual costs of providing the service.

Reciprocity
The FCC said it needed the information to decide whether policies abroad that discriminated against US firms should be taken into consideration in its decisions.

FCC chairman Dennis Patrick said the reporting requirements should not be taken as meaning the FCC opposed foreign participation in the US market.

"We believe in the economic utility of free trade. However, we also believe in the principle of reciprocity," he said.

FCC officials said they had received informal complaints from American firms of discrimination in telecommunications markets. They declined to name the countries.

The breakup of American Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1984 was seen as an opportunity for foreign firms to increase sales in the United States while their home markets remained closed to American firms, FCC officials said.

Getty seeks Texaco shares

NEW YORK, Feb 26, (AP): Getty Petroleum Corp. said yesterday it has bought \$14 million worth of Texaco Inc.'s stock and is seeking government permission to acquire a larger stake.

Getty, a major gasoline retailer born of Texaco's 1984 takeover of Getty Oil Co., said it intends to ask the federal trade commission to let it acquire more than \$15 million of Texaco's stock, in accordance with government regulations.

Move
It became the third party holding in the process of lining up a major stake in the beleaguered oil company.

Financier Carl C. Icahn, chairman of Trans World Airlines Inc., is Texaco's largest shareholder, with at least 14.8 per cent of Texaco's shares.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY: Feb 26, (Reuters): The market closed easier but with its low, dragged down by weaker gold and mining stocks. The All Ordinaries index closed 3.3 points down at 1,241.5.

TOKYO: Prices closed up for a 12th consecutive session on buying boosted by dollar stability, domestic economic growth and promising company profits. The Nikkei index rose 64.52 to 25,165.18.

HONG KONG: Shares ended higher on active trading, buoyed by improved sentiment on Tokyo's continued gains. The Hang Seng index rose 28.04 to 2,383.92.

SINGAPORE: The market closed on a mixed note after profit-taking alternated with bargain-hunting in lacklustre trading. The Straits Times industrial index dropped 0.97 of a point to 888.20.

BOMBAY: Prices overcame budget nervousness and recovered modestly in brisk trading.

FRANKFURT: Shares closed lower in moderate trading as the weaker dollar sparked profit-taking by investors and led professionals to square their books. The Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, dropped 13.4 to 1,391.5.

NEW YORK: Stocks gained narrowly in early trading, with brokers attributing some buying to futures-related activity. The Dow was up two at 2,020.

S. Yemen to get \$15m AMF loan

ABU DHABI, Feb 26, (Reuters): The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) is to loan South Yemen \$15 million to help it offset a deficit in its balance of payments, the AMF said today.

In a statement, the Abu Dhabi-based fund said its chairman Abdullah Al-Qusbi would sign the loan accord when he visits Aden tomorrow.

Capacity
With the completion of this stage, the line's overall capacity would increase by 1.15 million bpd to reach 1.65 million bpd. The first stage, with a capacity of 0.50 million bpd, was commissioned in 1985.

Iran, Turkey open trade talks

NICOSIA, Feb 26, (Reuters): Turkish and Iranian officials opened trade talks in Tehran today ahead of next week's visit by Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to Iran.

Exports
Iran's national news agency Ima quoted Iranian Minister of Heavy Industry Behzad Nabavi as saying bilateral trade peaked at \$2.3 billion in 1982.

Iran imports mainly food, livestock and agricultural machinery from Turkey and supplies more than a third of Turkey's crude oil requirements.

Turkey's semi-official Anatolian News Agency quoted Nabavi as saying at the weekend Iran's exports to Turkey last year were worth \$917 million compared with imports of \$450 million.

This fell short of the \$2-billion target set for bilateral trade. Nabavi blamed the shortfall on lower oil prices.

Over 50 oilfields discovered

BAGHDAD, Feb 26, (Opecna): More than 50 new oilfields have been discovered in Iraq since the nationalisation of oil in 1972, according to the Minister of Oil Isam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi.

In a statement marking the 15th anniversary of nationalisation on March 1, 1973, the minister said that Iraq's proven reserves had substantially increased during this period.

Al Chalabi said that the second stage of a pipeline carrying Iraqi crude oil across Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea port of Yanbu would be completed in September 1989.

Developed countries urged to transfer technology

LAGOS, Feb 26, (Opecna): Developed nations have been urged to show more "political goodwill" and make "meaningful" technological transfers to developing countries.

Declaring open the 10th Kaduna International Trade Fair at the weekend, President Ibrahim Babangida called for an increase in resource flow to developing nations.

He said the Nigerian government was committed to the optimum utilisation of available human and material resources in its efforts to achieve self-sufficiency, self-reliance and rapid economic development.

Development
The president said that the government would shift its investments to infrastructure development and the building of strategic industries. This should serve as a catalyst for private investment, he added.

He said the Kaduna fair was enlarging the volume of international trade by providing a market where various technologies and products from both developed and developing countries could compete favourably.

More than 450 Nigerian firms and 20 countries are participating in the fair.

Businessmen protest as North Cyprus devalues Turkish lira

NICOSIA, Feb 26, (Reuters): The breakaway Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC) devalued the Turkish lira by almost five per cent today in what bankers described as a test for a planned lira floatation in Turkey itself.

The move brought bitter complaints from Turkish Cypriot businessmen, who said it would push up prices by 10 per cent.

"It will ruin the economy," said the TRNC Chamber of Commerce's official publication, Ekonomi. The chamber said it would stop all contacts and cooperation with the government in protest.

Down
Today's official TRNC central bank rate of 1.236 lira to the dollar was 4.935 per cent down from 1.175 on Thursday. The rate was previously pegged to that of the Ankara Central Bank.

The TRNC was proclaimed only by Ankara, was proclaimed in 1983 in the northern third of Cyprus occupied by Turkish troops since 1974.

Private banks in North Cyprus will still set their own rates, about 1.320 today. Cypriot businessmen use the central bank rate for many imports.

Turkey's lira floatation, now expected in May, has been repeatedly delayed since January due to big fluctuations in foreign currency prices on the Istanbul bazaar free market.

Balkan meeting agrees to regular high-level talks

BELGRADE, Feb 26, (Reuters): Balkan foreign ministers attending the region's first high-level meeting backed away from the idea of a regional summit today, but agreed to regular talks on boosting cooperation.

The ministers — from Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey and Yugoslavia — promised in a closing statement to their three-day meeting to hold further talks on economic, security, humanitarian, cultural and technological issues.

All six states in the region, their links dogged through history by wars and disputes over ethnic minorities and borders, took a step towards normalisation, the next 18 months between ministers, ambassadors and experts.

Proposal
But there was no reference in the statement to a proposal by Romania to stage a Balkan summit in Bucharest next December.

Diplomats described this as a major blow for Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, known to be fond of pageantry and ceremony.

The document said a proposal for a meeting of heads of government "was discussed and will be further explored when appropriate conditions exist."

Lack of agreement on a summit stemmed from the insistence by hardline Communist Albania that a step-by-step approach be maintained in improving Balkan ties.

Albanian Minister Reiz Malile rejected high-level "parades" as giving false impressions that all disputes were settled.

The Romanian delegation had lobbied hard in the closing stages of the meeting to include the summit proposal.

Yugoslav Minister Budimir Loncar, who read the final statement, termed the meeting a success. He said the statement "reflected the realistic possibilities for present relations in the Balkans and provided an orientation for the future."

Karolos Papoulias of Greece said the talks "exceeded all my expectations."

Diplomats said it was the first accord of such scope reached by all six states, which maintain sharply differing diplomatic and ideological allegiances.

Bulgaria and Romania are Warsaw pact members, Turkey and Greece are in North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, Yugoslavia is part of the Non-Aligned Movement and Albania belongs to no bloc at all, having broken with the Warsaw pact in the 1960s.

The document agreed in principle to hold foreign ministers' meetings "periodically," but without specific times.

It said ethnic minorities should serve as a bridge and force of cohesion, but avoided citing bilateral disputes.

Turkish Minister Mesut Yilmaz praised the outcome of the meeting but said his delegation had sought a stronger reference to humanitarian issues.

Algeria's Belkacem Nabi said output needed to be under 17 million bpd to balance supplies with lower spring demand.

Ecuador's Fernando Santos Alvarado said: "The basic problem is the disequilibrium between supply and demand and for that reason I think the solution lies in the level of production."

Both said Opec's price monitoring committee ought to meet if prices stay depressed.

According to a Reuters survey, Opec January output fell to 16.7 million bpd from 18.35 million the previous month.

Industry observers say the strategy Opec is now pursuing in its efforts to stabilise prices around its reference price of \$18 is in sharp contrast to that a year ago.

Early 1982 its response to weak markets was a rigid refusal to sell below Opec-mandated prices. This year, the plan is to stick to output quotas in the hope it will bear the same result.

Whereas last year's policy cut output below the group's ceiling in February and March 1982, the IEA says, output this year is at least 1.5 million higher — yet world demand has risen little more than one per cent.

System
Analysts say output has risen from Iraq, which excluded itself from Opec's quota system because it did not get the same quota as Gulf war foe Iran. Also, the commitment to quotas rather than prices has meant that Opec members feel free to discount to maintain sales at quota.

Nabi last week described this as a very hard tactic and one which "is killing the credibility of Opec."

"Opec seems to regard quotas as an output floor, not a ceiling," Nomura's Baker said. "It should be the reverse."

Two Opec ministers last week called for Opec output, already reduced, to be cut still further if prices are to recover.

Options
Analysts also said Opec sellers had built up their own stocks. They understood Saudi Arabia had increased the amount it holds overseas by chartering five or more supertankers with options to use them to store oil. Saudi overseas storage is estimated at 18 to 20 million barrels.

Iranian stocks are also said to have risen. Several tankers are on their way to Rotterdam where stocks are already high.

Mehdi Varzi, analyst at London's Kleinwort Greaveson Securities, said about one million bpd of this month's Opec production was headed for storage.

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Output
More fundamentally, analysts blame excess output by Opec (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) in the second half of 1982, when it pumped up to 3.5 million barrels per day (bpd) over its self-imposed 16.6 million bpd ceiling.

With slack demand, this brought stocks in the industrial nations of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to their highest for five years.

The Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA) estimated that OECD government and oil company stocks on January 1, 1983, at 99 days' forward consumption, two days more than a year ago.

Apart from 102 days' of stocks at end-1982, the level was the highest since IEA records began in 1974.

Evidence suggests that stocks in the first quarter of this year are not falling as fast as expected, partly due to weak demand caused by a mild winter, particularly in West Europe.

Christine Baker of Nomura Research, in common with several others, said she had been looking for stocks to fall around two million bpd in January-March 1983. But the decline so far was only about 1.0 to 1.5 million.

If confirmed, this low decline could aggravate the supply overhang and price weakness in coming months, Baker said.

Stock declines in March are usually less than in January and February, and there could even be a stock increase in the second quarter of 1983 of around 400,000 bpd, Baker said.

Market sources said cargoes of crude from the North Sea Brent field, for prompt loading, were quoted at \$14.40/55 today, the lowest since December 17.

Brent was above \$20 in August 1982. Such exports as Geoff Fyne at London stockbrokers Phillips and Drew said it may drop to \$14 soon, although he saw little likelihood of prices going into an uncontrolled tailspin.

The new falls, which took the US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil below \$16 on Thursday, were triggered by figures by the US energy information administration showing an 8.5 million barrel rise in American domestic crude stocks.

Decline
Shares on key European exchanges generally headed lower at the end of the week.

In London, the blue-chip FTSE index of 100 key shares was 1,770.6 points at 1200 GMT, down 11.8 on yesterday's close.

West German shares were easier after a sharp rise yesterday as investors, encouraged by the weaker dollar, took profits ahead of the weekend. Frankfurt's Boersen-Zeitung index, calculated at midday, was 3,65 points down at 291.51.

Share values eased in Milan, Zurich, Madrid and Amsterdam, but in Brussels, where the market is being influenced by a battle for control of Societe Generale de Belgique, the country's biggest company, shares were generally firm in thin trading, dealers said.

Sydney's All Ordinaries index fell 3.3 points to 1,241.5, dragged down by weak gold and mining stocks. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 28.04 points to 2,383.92.

indicator posted around a 1.27 per cent decline. It then slipped further to a 1.80 per cent fall before beginning to pick up again.

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'Shocking' Prince image just a facade

He has been called the Purple Pain and pop's most disgusting pervert. But is Prince fooling us with his raunchy madcap image, or is he genuinely as shy as he would have us believe?

By Mike Hrano

FOR a fleeting moment, as he rolled around the floor simulating sex during one of his concerts, Prince let his public mask slip.

"If you're taking all this seriously," he grinned, turning to his audience, "you're more stupid than I am." Coming from so-called "Potty Prince" it was a remark hopelessly out of character. It hinted that all was not what it seemed. Could it be that the Minneapolis midget was laughing in the face of his critics and fooling us all?

Long before he rose to stardom, Prince was already busily cultivating an image built around mystery and intrigue. As far back as the late '70s, when he first visited England as a virtual unknown, he was a classic example of a little man with BIG ideas.

Magenta Devine, the pop publicist turned TV presenter, remembers how, even then, Prince was alarmingly shy and secretive — facets which have now been repeatedly exploited by reporters.

"I spent two days in a hotel room with Prince, handling his interviews," Magenta recalls. "Two days watching him looking at his boots and not saying anything."

That always makes me nervous, because I can't sit there and not talk to anyone — but Prince doesn't talk, he doesn't indulge in any kind of conversation or small talk.

"I walked in and his manager said to me 'He's not chatty. He won't really say all that much.' But you can't sit there in silence. It's not a convention, so I said 'Well, how are you enjoying London?' And he kind of

stood there, looking at his boots, and said 'It's great.'"

"I ended up speaking to him like a child, trying to coax something out of him. I asked him what he'd been doing since he arrived. 'Shopping', he said. And what have you bought? 'Boots'. It was just like the most major effort. Ever."

Whether or not such apparent shyness is an act or fact — and remember Prince is widely acknowledged as among the most wildly sexual performers in the history of popular music — only he knows. However, he has clearly succeeded in making a career out of saying little and letting everyone else figure out what he's about.

Skill

Prince plays the media with the same skill as any other instrument he cares to pick up. He always has done, and his record company has gone along with it all, carefully manipulating the available information which concerns its multi-million dollar earner.

Some say Prince is unique, gifted and innovative. Others argue that he's little more than an over-rated offensive pervert. Either way he appears not to care.

Until recently, he had flatly refused to be interviewed for several years. During 1985, for example, he only spoke once to the world at large. It was to announce that he would never tour again, which he has of course subsequently done, because he was going to "look for the ladder."

It was in 1982, while being interviewed to promote his album at the time, 1999, that Prince stormed from the room and announced that he would

never talk to the Press again. Neither would he be photographed, because having his picture taken made him "physically ill."

The result of such uncooperative behaviour was the building of a wall of myth and rumour which now surrounds him.

And as the stories continue to surface, Prince appears content simply to let his music do the talking. Prince has obviously figured out that when you're already successful, turning down interviews can gather as much publicity as doing them — for a lot less effort.

So the gossip grows. Prince believes he arrived on earth in a spaceship, he owns a herd of rare buffalo in Wyoming all of which are dyed bright purple, he makes the members of his band and entourage fill out an appointment request form, in triplicate, if they want to speak to him about anything.

And he loves to create a stir. He did it when he appeared on the prestigious television show American Bandstand and merely nodded yes or no answers to questions. He did it when he arrived in London three years ago to collect an award at the British Phonographic Industry presentation ceremony, creeping up on stage dwarfed by two hefty bouncers before whispering a brief "Thanks be to God."

Practice

And he did it when he visited a swish New York restaurant with a girlfriend and amazed the staff by sending back his plate of spaghetti... to be shortened. He also insisted on the wine waiter testing his Chablis before he would take a sip. Then he demanded that the toilet be cleared of all other customers before he would go in.

But it is the less provable incidents which have given the Press their most saleable snippets of copy.

A prime example of the practice came two years ago when



Pop star Prince: widely acknowledged as one of the most wildly sexual performers in the world.

one of Britain's biggest-selling pop magazines published a good-humoured spoof story about the star. In an April Fool's Day prank, it was reported that Prince and Madonna were about to get married and that Billy Idol was going to be their best man.

The highly unconvincing 'fact' was then reprinted as news — without any simple checks being made — in a British national newspaper. This was followed shortly afterwards by a story that Prince had married Susannah Melvoin, the twin-sister of Wendy — who had played in Prince's backing band, The Revolution.

So, what are we to make of the recent story that Prince has banned the release of a new

album because God told him to? Is he really, as he is reputed to be, frightened of naked women? And, has he actually tried to brainwash young people into worshipping Satan by recording subliminal messages on his albums?

Of course, he could put an end to it all by simply coming out with the truth. Instead he chooses to say nothing, perhaps because he is aware that the publicity helps to sell records — but more likely because he feels he doesn't owe anybody any explanations.

At best, Prince is a mildly disturbed pop star. Without doubt he is difficult to work with, but he richly rewards those who help his career.

Like mimics who hide their insecurity behind impressions,

like actors who display super-confidence in the name of a character, Prince is quite possibly a genuinely shy man who comes alive in the guise of a pop star. However, as Mick Jagger once said "It's only rock 'n' roll", and as Prince told his audience at that London concert, it's nothing worth getting too serious about.

But he remains empathic that he won't let his fairytale image get the better of him. "One thing I'd like to say is that I don't live in a prison and I'm not afraid of anything," he says.

"I haven't built any walls around myself. I'm just like everyone else. I need love and water and... I'm not afraid of the backlash."

George Michael tops US charts

NEW YORK. (AP) George Michael took his Father Figure to the top of the single pop record charts in the United States.

The hit disc leaped from fifth place a week ago.

The Pet Shop Boys-Dusty Springfield teaming on What Have I Done To Deserve This slipped from number one to second spot on the Cash Box magazine chart. Tiffany's Could've Been went down from second to third position.

Last week's number three hit, Hungry Eyes by Eric Carmen, toppled to seventh.

Climbing fast on the top ten pop list was She's Like The Wind by Patrick Swayze, from the sound track of the hit movie Dirty Dancing, up from seventh to fourth. Rick Astley's Never Gonna Give You Up leaped from tenth to sixth.

The week's only newcomer to the list was Belinda Carlisle's I Get Weak, up from 12th to 8th.

1. (1) Won't Take Less Than Your Love — Tanya Tucker with Paul Davis and Paul Overstreet (Capitol).

2. (1) Twinkle, Twinkle Lucky Star — Merle Haggard (Epic).

3. (4) Oh What A Love — The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band (Warner Brothers).

4. (6) Face To Face — Albama (RCA).

5. (7) Too Gone Too Long — Randy Travis (Warner Brothers).

6. (9) I'm Gonna Miss You Girl — Michael Martin Murphey (Warner Brothers).

7. (11) Shouldn't It Be Easier Than This — Charley Pride (16th Avenue).

8. (10) That's My Job — Conway Twitty (MCA).

9. (13) This Missin' You Heart Of Mine — Sawyer Brown (Capitol-Curb).

10. (12) Do You Believe Me Now — Vern Gosdin (Columbia).

Top Ten US

The ten top pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (5) Father Figure — George Michael (Columbia).

2. (1) What Have I Done To Deserve This — The Pet Shop Boys and Dusty Springfield (EMI-Manhattan).

3. (2) Could've Been — Tiffany (RCA).

4. (7) She's Like The Wind — Patrick Swayze (RCA).

5. (4) Seasons Change — Exposé (Arista).

6. (10) Never Gonna Give You Up — Rick Astley (RCA).

7. (3) Hungry Eyes — Eric Carmen (RCA).

8. (12) I Get Weak — Belinda Carlisle (MCA).

9. (6) Need You Tonight — Inxs (Atlantic).

10. (9) Don't Shed A Tear — Paul Carrack (Chrysalis).

Top Ten UK

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by Melody Maker magazine, with last week's placings in parentheses:

1. (11) I should Be So Lucky — Kylie Minogue (PWL).

2. (14) Beat Dis — Bomb the Bass (Rhythm King).

3. (6) Get Out Of My Dreams — Billy Ocean (Jive).

4. (3) Tell It To My Heart — Taylor Dayne (Arista).

5. (2) I Think We're Alone Now — Tiffany (MCA).

6. (15) Gimme Hope Jo'anna — Eddie Grant (ICE).

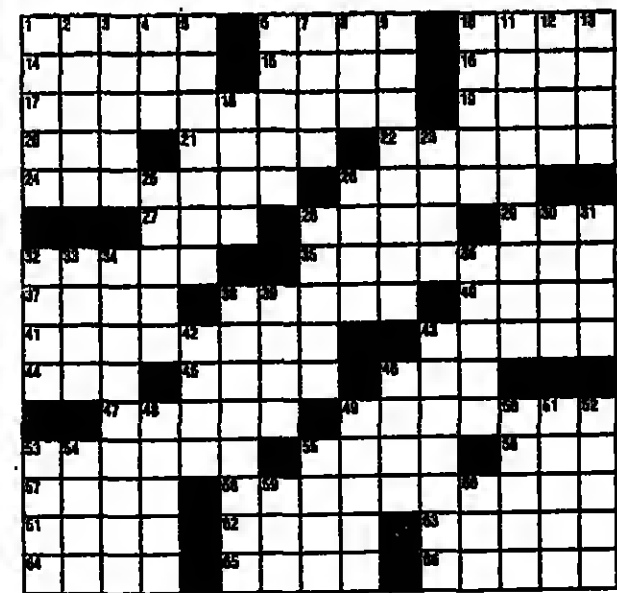
7. (9) Say It Again — Jermaine Stewart (10).

8. (5) Suedehead — Morrissey (HMV).

9. (12) Tower of Strength — The Mission (Mercury).

10. (30) Doctorin' The House — Cold Cut (Ahead of Our Time).

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Dormer units
 - Coal carrier
 - Attention getters
 - Plato's mart
 - Special
 - Sioux
 - Super used cars
 - Major or Minor constellation
 - Elongated swimmer
 - Accord
 - Most reliable
 - Mount a new
 - "As You Like It"
 - Raccoon-family member
 - Person
 - Shakespearean villain
 - culpa
 - Pub game
 - Optimists
 - Pulitzer Prize winner of 1957
 - Slippers
 - Pennsylvania port
 - Co-worker
 - First to stab Caesar
 - Extension
 - Chariot's path
 - Kabuki prop
 - Author Havelock
 - Federal stamp
 - Shows, western style
 - Wife of Zeus
 - , Daman and Diu, India
 - Word with work or ware
 - Water craft
 - Rigid
 - Water vessel
 - A Shaw
 - Chorister
 - Does lawn work
 - Tommy guns?
- DOWN**
- Runner of a sort
 - Blend
 - Carols
 - Period
 - Yankee craft
 - Respite
 - Transport for Tom Sawyer
 - Pound sound
 - Wires
 - Author of "The Pisan Cantos"
 - David Rabe play
 - Fling
 - Position
 - Wedding party member
 - Indonesian beast
 - pole
 - Shave
 - Dillydallier
 - "The Red"
 - Cruising
 - Facts
 - Maturing factor
 - Cleaned a pipe
 - Intended
 - Artist Henri et al.
 - Native Americans
 - Actor O'Shea
 - Malons
 - 46 Shape
 - 48 Musical direction
 - 49 Sockets
 - 50 Type size
 - 51 Arrived
 - 52 Comforts
 - 53 Hayworth, of films
 - 54 Spoken
 - 55 Observe
 - 56 Duad
 - 60 Newfoundland's noah
- ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**
- VEER JAWA CATT
OLEO ELEM AUGUR
LULU ESNE WRITE
LOEN ROUNABOUT
EDDIE STIR
TAO ZEROES
CLEAN JAZZ OUSE
LIMB GAGEY URS
EMIL OMEN INSET
FOREGO INO
OPAL CADET
ROUNDSTEAK ARUA
ANNUL TAXI NULL
CATTY ISLE ELASA
ENOS CHER ELAIN

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
VISITORS WIN BLUE RIBBON TEAMS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 7 2
♥ Q J 10 8 4
♦ 10 2
♣ 5 4 2

EAST

♠ K Q 9 3
♥ A 9 6 5 3
♦ A 9 7
♣ 7

SOUTH

♠ A J 5
♥ K
♦ K Q J
♣ A J 10 9 6 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ DBL 1 ♥ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠

The winners of the Reisinger Board-a-Match Team Championship at the Fall North American Championships was won by a truly international team: Canadian Billy Cohen, now residing in the U.S.; Pakistan international star Zia Mahmood; Indian internationalist Jaggy Shivdasani; and Ron Smith, a St. Louis options broker. Shivdasani had, a few months earlier, won the Spingold team event at the Sum-

mer Nationals.

They virtually locked up the title in the first round of the finals when they won 21 boards of a possible 27, to take a 7 1/2 board lead over the field. Typical of their wins was this board, where both teams stretched slightly to a three no trump contract. In both rooms, the opening lead was the king of spades, and both declarers allowed it to win the trick as East signalled with a high spade.

Shivdasani realized that to continue with a spade would be leading into declarer's ace-jack tenace, but he did not think that any shift would be effective. So he continued with a spade, conceding two tricks in the suit to declarer. He won the king of hearts with the ace and assured that the defense would prevail by continuing with a third spade. Declarer had no way to come to nine tricks without the club suit, but he could not reach dummy to take the finesse. When he conceded a club trick to East, the defenders were able to cash a spade and take their ace of diamonds for down one.

At the other table West discontinued spades at trick two. Less than optimum defense now allowed declarer to make his contract.



"What do you mean you overslept? That's the third battle you missed this month!"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

- Aries (March 20 - April 18)**
- You will have to deal with a family situation before matters become critical. Do not let yourself be tempted to spend more than you know you can afford.
- Cancer (June 21 - July 21)**
- The Moon's influence will help you to find the right way to go about things. You will have a lot to do and should not try to do it all at once. Try not to allow things to get on your nerves. Be tolerant.
- Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)**
- You should take care to avoid creating confusion. You must keep your wits very much about you. Try to look more on the positive side of things. Take the best possible care of your health. Be frank.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**
- Today too you must do all you can to avoid upsetting the harmony with your partner. You must not think you have no more to learn about a particular skill. Read the instructions to a new gadget carefully. Be lenient.
- Taurus (April 19 - May 19)**
- You should not make a complicated situation even worse. You should avoid the temptation to indulge in sweet things. Your partner will appreciate a little more loving attention. Be cordial.
- Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)**
- You will be able to have a pleasant day. The influence of Venus and Jupiter will help you to take things as they come. Do not send off a letter without having reread it first. Be less impulsive.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**
- You will have a good idea but it may not be applicable right away. You should make sure you get enough rest but do not be lazy. Make sure you meet your obligations. Be responsive.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**
- The influence of Cancer will stimulate your imagination. However you must not confuse reality with what you would like to be. Make sure you do not exceed any speed limits. Be sensible.
- Gemini (May 20 - June 20)**
- You will find it easier to absorb new information. You will be able to get a move on. Be extra careful when walking or driving. Be considerate.
- Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)**
- You will be able to calm your nerves somewhat. You should not think you have no more to learn. Try to rid yourself of some preconceptions. Be flexible.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**
- You will have something interesting to do. However you must also ensure that you take care of your chores. Avoid doing anything too strenuous. Be less obstinate.
- Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)**
- Today you are likely to be in high spirits and should try to restrain yourself. You will have a good idea but it will not be immediately applicable. You should try to overcome a certain degree of shyness.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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ACCOMMODATION

Available

JULEEB Al Shiyookh, 2 big rooms (5x3 metres) with separate bathroom for Pakistanis to share with a Pakistani family. Rent KD70 per month. Tele. Mohd Saleem, 4711166, ext. 1538.

(AT6-41156-2)

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(AT6-41153-3)

KEIFAN, opp. Jameia No. 1, Area 3, Street 31, House No. 6. Rooms available for Indian couples or family. Contact Sultan Mohammad in person between 5-9 pm.

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(AT5-41148-3)

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DASMA, two rooms for small families. Tele. Bilal, 2532730.

(AT5-41145-3)

BENEID AL QAR, near the Hilton Hotel. One furnished room, for bachelors. Tele. Mr. Nebil, 2403097.

(AT5-41145-3)

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(AT2-41141-3)

WANTED

WANTED used Tip Suzuki or another make, preferably less than 3 years old. Tele. Mr. Vlada, 4813140.

(AT2-41161-3)

LOST

BLACK Samsonite briefcase, contains very important documents badly needed, lost at the airport, 5 am Sunday, Feb 21. Tele. Josefa Degulino, 4840300 ext. 2351, 2355.

(AT6-41160-3)

PASSPORT No. W 120011 in the name of Faisal, son of Ghulam Nabi Noor Mohammed, FINDER please tele. 4719430, 2646360.

(AT5-41147-3)

KUWAIT INDIAN SCHOOL

Farwania. Tel. 4737287

ADMISSION NOTICE

Registration started for L.K.G., U.K.G., 1st & 2nd standards for 1988-89 academic year starting from April. Application forms are available from School in Farwania, Block No. 86, Street No. 88 (behind Al-Tadamon sports club & Al-Basheer & Al-Manar School).

Transport by air-conditioned buses available.

MANAGEMENT

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PO Box 379 Safat 13004
Kuwait

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Telephone 5318155.

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Applications from suitable qualified teachers of music, and class teachers of infant and junior level children are also invited. Application forms are available from the school office, and should be returned as soon as possible.

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(AT6-41154-3)

A FAMILY leaving Kuwait selling complete 2-bedroom apartment. Furniture used only for 3 months. KD2000, firm. Hawalli, central AC. Rent KD215. Tele. 2645326, 6-9 pm.

(AT6-T/M-3)

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(AT5-41113-3)

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(AT4-41134-3)

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MITSUBISHI Galant GLS, bought Dec. 87, automatic, 5500 kms, registered up to Dec. 1990, in excellent condition. Paid KD 3000, asking KD 2500 (fixed). Tele. 2403600, 8.30 am-1 pm, 4.30-7.30 pm.

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MERCEDES 230E, 1982, manual, white, in excellent condition. KD1400. Tele. 4840198.

(AT2-41158-3)

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(AT6-41152-3)

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(AT2-41146-3)

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(AT6-41087-1)

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ACADEMIC YEAR 1988-89
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The Brazilian Embassy intends selling the following used cars:

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- 2- Buick Century, Station Wagon, Model 1979, automatic w/A.C, colour white.
- 3- Buick Park Avenue, Model 1980, automatic w/A.C., colour black.

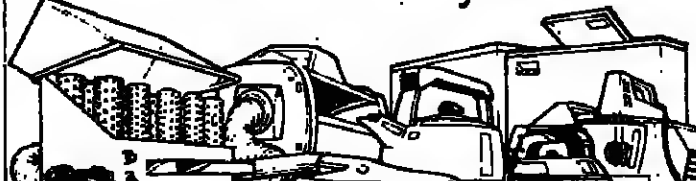
Only written biddings are acceptable and the cars can be checked at the embassy premises in Dasmah, Block 2, Istiqal St, Villa No. 1, between 9 am and 1 pm.

Leaving town for good?

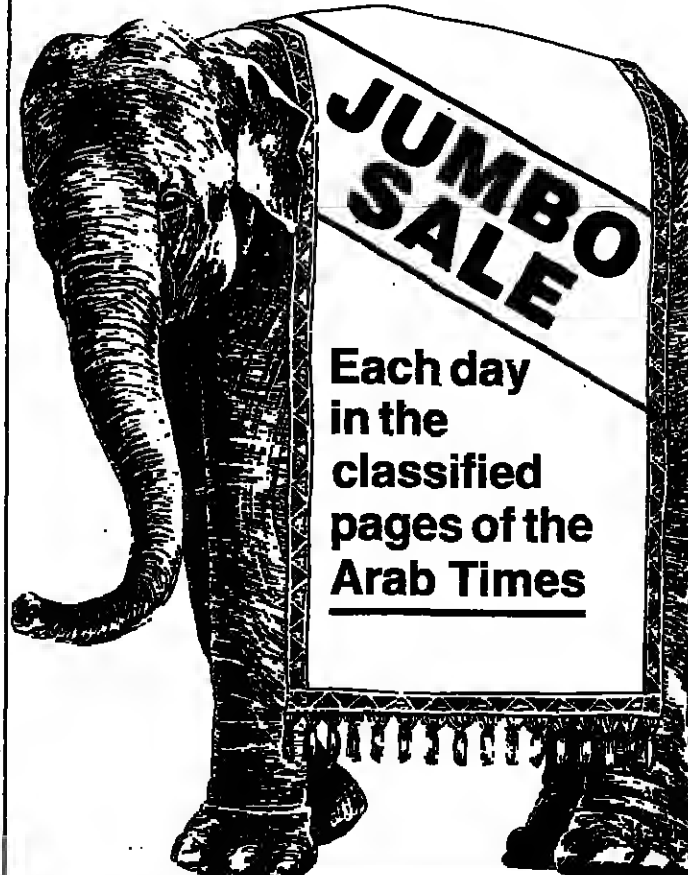


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Blackman's jump shot gives victory to Mavericks

NEW YORK, Feb. 26, (AP) — Here are the results of National Basketball Association games last night:

Mavericks 108, Rockets 106

Rolando Blackman, who scored 29 points, made a 20-foot (6-metre) jump shot with 26 seconds remaining to give the Dallas Mavericks their seventh straight victory, 108-106 over the Houston Rockets in a key Midwest division game.

Blackman, who scored nine of Dallas' last 13 points, also had six assists and seven rebounds in the game in Houston.

Suns 109, Cavaliers 103

Walter Davis scored 16 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter, including eight in the final 1:18, as the Phoenix Suns beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 109-103, just hours after the teams made a multi-player trade.

In the game in Phoenix, Arizona, rookie Armon Gilliam scored a career-high 24 points while Eddie Johnson had 22 and Jeff Hornacek had 16 for the Suns.

Before the game, the Suns swapped veteran forwards Larry Nance and Mike Sanders for Cavaliers' center Mark West, guard Kevin Johnson and forward Tyrone Corbin. In addition, the teams exchanged the Cavaliers' second-round selection in both the 1988 and 1989 college drafts. None of the players involved in the trade suited up, leaving both teams with just eight in uniform.

Knicks 106, Clippers 96

Gerald Wilkins scored nine of his 25 points in the last five minutes as the New York Knicks ended an 18-game road losing streak with a 106-96 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

The victory was the Knicks' second of the season in 25 games away from Madison Square Garden and their first on the road since Nov. 25, when they beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 104-101. The Clippers, who have dropped seven in a row, played without three key players due to illness and injury.

Bullets 129, Kings 110

Jeff Malone scored a season-high 35 points as the Washington Bullets broke a three-game losing streak with a 129-110 victory over the Sacramento Kings. In the game in Sacramento, Moses Malone added 27 points and grabbed a season-high 17 rebounds for Washington. John Williams added 17 points.

Barcelona reel off third successive win

LONDON, Feb. 26, (Reuters) — Barcelona continued their recovery after their dreadful start to the quarter-final playoffs with their third successive win yesterday to increase their chances of making the European Champion Clubs' Cup basketball semifinals.

The Catalan team, who beat Cologne 116-85, are now fifth following five wins in their last games after losing their first four matches in the elementary pool.

At the end of 14 rounds, the top four teams will qualify for the semifinals to be played in Ghent, Belgium, between April 5 and 7. Partizan Belgrade are clear leaders with nine wins from 10 games following a 73-70 victory in Orthez against the French champions. Zarko Paspalj led the scorers for Partizan with 15 points supported by 14 from Goran Grbovic. American Howard Carter led the Orthez response with 20 points.

Aris Salonika stay second with six wins following a 93-77 win over Maccabi Tel Aviv. European player-of-the-year Nick Galis was top scorer for Aris with 36, backed by 19 from fellow Israeli international Panagiotis Yannakis.

Third-placed Milan won 85-80 in the Netherlands against Den Bosch who are still without injured American and leading scorer Paul Thompson and their tallest player Hank Pietenze.

Americans Ricky Brown, with 28 points, and Bob McAdoo, with 27, were Milan's top scorers. Den Bosch depended on their three international players for their points — Ronald Schip, who scored 19, Jos Kuypers, 18, and Raymond Botse, 21.

Maccabi, in fourth place, are under most threat from Barcelona's resurgence which has been sparked by the recovered form of key players. Juan Sibilio scored 28 points against Cologne. American Audie Norris 24 and Sibilio 21.

Barcelona lost by one point in El Aviv in the first game in the pool, but then defeated them 106-94 at the beginning of February, ensuring they will go through the last four if they finish on the same number of wins as Maccabi.

SOVIETS BOOST THEIR LEAD IN MEDAL STANDINGS

Tomba digs gold for Italy in men's giant slalom

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 26, (AP) — Alberto Tomba, Italy's new "bomb" on skis, blasted past a star-studded field for his country's first gold medal of these Winter Olympics yesterday, while the Soviets just kept grinding out cross-country victories.

Tomba, wearing a big number 1 for his starting position, won the men's giant slalom in two explosive runs that added up to 2 minutes, 6.37 seconds.

Tamara Tikhonova persevered for 55 minutes, 53.6 seconds as she led a 1-2-3 Soviet sweep in the women's longest cross-country ski race, 20 kilometers. After her second gold medal of these games, she commented: "It was almost easy."

Battled Reisa Smetanina battled from behind for a bronze medal in the race, boosting her haul for four Olympics to nine medals, the most for any woman in Winter Olympic history.

The only Soviet embarrassment was the disqualification of Nina Gavriluk, who placed eighth, for racing with an oversized shoe manufacturer's logo on her headband.

Now holding 25 medals in all, including nine golds, the Soviets boosted their lead over second-place East Germany, which stayed at 17 medals, including seven golds.

The East Germans, however, were hoping for gold from women's figure skating defending champion Katarina Witt, who won last night's short programme, worth 20 per cent of the total, and stood second overall going into the finale, tomorrow night's free skating, which is worth 50 per cent.

In overall medals, Switzerland stayed third with 11 after Pirmin Zurbriggen took the giant slalom bronze, and its skiing archrival Austria kept close behind with one thanks to Hubert Strolz' silver in that race.

Tomba, 21, who has won seven of the 12 World Cup races he has entered so far this season, made his Olympic debut on Sunday in the super giant slalom — not one of his specialties — and quickly missed a gate, twisting his knee.

Flawless

But he was nearly flawless in his first run down the giant slalom course yesterday, winning it by 1.14 seconds. He captured the gold with what he called a "very intelligent ... no risks" second run.

Tomba, whose wealthy father

had promised him a Ferrari sports car if he won a gold medal, was mobbed by Italian fans, who knocked down a fence to congratulate him.

"I want it red," he said of the car.

The victory by Tomba, the self-proclaimed "new messiah of skiing", was the first Olympic Alpine skiing gold for an Italian man since Piero Gros' slalom triumph in 1976. He will race again tomorrow in the slalom.

Strolz, who earlier won the Alpine combined event, was 1.04

second behind in 2:07.41, despite being one-tenth of a second faster than Tomba on the second run.

Zurbriggen, originally seen as a likely multiple gold medalist, finished in 2:08.39 for his bronze. He won the first Alpine race of these games, the downhill, but then fell within sight of victory in the combined and tied for fifth in the super-G.

"For me", Strolz said, the silver medal "is a victory because Alberto is too strong and he was unbeatable today."

Zurbriggen, the defending World Cup giant slalom champion, added, "Tomba is definitely superior in giant slalom at the moment. He is very strong and very determined, and I could only think of the silver or bronze."

Poorly

Two stars faded poorly. Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, in what was seen as his last good chance for an Olympic medal, finished 20th. Ingemar Stenmark, winner of 45 giant slalom races, four times as many as any other racer in history, was 30th in the first heat and missed a turn in the second.

Stenmark, 31, was making his first Olympic appearance since 1980. He was banned from the 1984 games for professionalism.

There also were disqualifications in the giant slalom — for wearing skisuits not approved by the international ski federation. All four Canadian racers and 10 other competitors were not allowed to make their second runs, but none was a medal contender.

Triumph

Tikhonova's triumph was the Soviet's fifth in seven cross-country races in these games, with only the men's 50-kilometre event remaining to be run, tomorrow.

Teammate Anfissa Retsova, who had anchored the winning relay team, was 19.2 seconds



The Olympic medal winners wave after the final event in the Nordic Combined discipline gave the West German team, centre, the gold, Switzerland, left, the silver and Austria the bronze. (Reuters wirephoto)

behind Tikhonova yesterday, in 56:12.8, and Smetanina was third in 57:22.1.

With her ninth Olympic medal, the 36-year-old Smetanina broke the women's record of eight set by fellow Soviet cross-country skier Galina Kulakova in four Olympics, 1968 to 1980.

Smetanina, saying that these are her last Olympics, added: "Now we are going to celebrate. We are going to drink a lot." The Soviet team's official translator said it was a joke.

Tikhonova said of her race,

"from the beginning everything went just fine. ... the skis were very good and it was almost easy."

She joined Marjo Matikainen on the list of women triple medalists in these games. Matikainen won the five-kilometre race and also has two bronze medals.

Relay

Tikhonova won her other gold as a member of the 4x5-kilometre relay team, and took a silver in the five-kilometre individual race.

Matikainen was only 12th yesterday one place behind teammate Marja Liisa Kirvesniemi, 32, a triple gold medalist in the 1984 Olympics who started a comeback eight months ago after retiring in 1985.

In practice runs yesterday for the four-man bobsled race, to be run tomorrow and Sunday, Swiss veteran Ekkehard Fasser posted the fastest time ever on the Olympic Park course, 55.52 seconds. The record of 57.25 was set last month by a Canadian team.

Czechoslovakia hold the key

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 26, (AP) — Czechoslovakia, the only team with no chance of an Olympic hockey medal, will determine who the gold is awarded.

The Soviet Union, the defending gold medalist, can win it again as early as today if it beats top-seeded Sweden, and Czechoslovakia can beat Finland earlier in the day.

A victory by Finland, however, would set up a gold medal showdown on Sunday between the Soviets and Finns.

Today's other medal-round game will have Canada, looking for its first goal in four medal-round games dating back to 1984, against West Germany. The loser will be knocked out of the medal chase. Already, the best Canada can hope for is a bronze, West Germany a silver.

Czechoslovakia, 1984 silver medalist, was eliminated after a 6-2 loss to Sweden on Wednesday which featured one of the tournament's outstanding saves.

Peter Lindmark stopped Jaroslav Benak on a breakaway and kept the Czechs from taking a 2-0 lead in the second period.

"The decisive moment was when Benak didn't score," Czechoslovakia's assistant coach Frantisek Pospisil said.

About a minute after Lindmark's save, Sweden scored. Five more Swedish goals followed. Lindmark will have to be fantastic again when Sweden plays the Soviet Union in tonight's featured game. Sweden needs a victory to have any chance of a gold medal.

That Lindmark's save was the difference against the Czechs

shouldn't be too surprising. Great goaltending almost always makes the difference in the Olympics.

Could the Soviet Union have ruled the hockey world for the last two decades without the great Vladislav Tretiak?

This year, a number of goalies brought their considerable skills into the Olympics, including Canada's Sean Burke and Andy Moog. Czechoslovakia's Jaromir Sidel and Dominik Hasek, Switzerland's Richard Bucher and Olivier Anken, Poland's Gabriel Smolej and West Germany's Karl Friesen.

Two have stood out: Lindmark and Finland's Jarmo Myllys.

Another, Sergei Mylnikov of the Soviet Union, looks beatable. But he hasn't been beaten often enough and the Soviets are 6-0.

Witt moves closer toward second gold

CALGARY, Alberta, Feb. 26, (AP) — Katarina Witt of East Germany moved one step closer toward her second Olympic title last night by winning the short programme in the women's figure skating competition.

Witt, the reigning world and defending Olympic champion, finished second in the overall standings, two-tenths of a point behind Debi Thomas of the United States.

The gold medal will be decided in tomorrow night's long programme.

Although she was not in the lead after two disciplines, Witt was still in control. She has not lost in the long programme since the 1982 world championships.

Intimidate

That doesn't intimidate Thomas.

"Hopefully I won't give anything away," she said. "I really want to fight for this and hold it. ... this is my one and only Olympics and I want to nail it."

Liz Manley of Canada was third following yesterday's short programme. Kira Ivanova of the Soviet Union, the leader after the compulsorys, botched a jump and dropped to fourth.

Witt, wearing a bright blue showgirl's costume that the Canadian coach compared to a G-string, skated a bonny programme to a medley of Broadway tunes.

The 22-year-old East German had no problem with any of the seven required moves and her tap-dancing footwork was well received.

Happy

"I was very happy with my programme because I did all my jumps," Witt said afterward. "There was a lot of pressure on

my shoulders but I think (the performance) was a good one."

Then she stood next to US coach Alex McGowan, watched Thomas' performance and applauded at the finish.

Thomas, wearing a black unitard trimmed in blue and white sequins, skated to music by the rock group Dead or Alive. She executed a series of jumps including a difficult double loop-triple toe loop.

She made no mistakes, but the judges were more impressed with Witt.

Thomas, 20, beat or tied Witt for technical merit with all nine judges, much to the approval of the sellout crowd to at the Olympic Saddledome.

But those cheers quickly turned to boos when the artistic marks flashed on the board. Only the American and Japanese judges gave Thomas first-place votes for the programme.

Frustration

McGowan waved his hand in frustration and bled his nose, saying, "no way, no way, it stinks."

"It hurts me when I see her skating so well and she's dropped in artistic marks when they raise Katarina," he said. "Katarina did skate well. I have no problem there, but I'm a little concerned it may happen again in the long programme."

"No matter what Debi does, I'm afraid the die is cast," he said.

Thomas tried to be more diplomatic.

"I skated a good programme of course, I hoped to have higher marks," she said.

The most athletic performance came from Midori Ito of Japan, who stood 10th after school figures but moved up to



East German Witt holds a leg up behind her during the short programme skating event. (Reuters wirephoto)

eight by finishing fourth in the short programme.

Ito 18, thrilled the crowd with her high, smooth jumps, including an unusual double axel she approached with a one-footed turn.

When she finished, it waved happily to the crowd, which was on its feet. When she saw her marks, which included seven 5.8s, she jumped up and down, drawing another big ovation from the crowd.

Norman shoots course record in Canberra

Jay Haas shares lead in Los Angeles open

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 26, (Agencies) — Jay Haas, currently playing some of the best golf of his 12-year career, shot a 6-under-par 65 yesterday to tie the three others for the first-round lead in the \$750,000 Los Angeles open.

Haas' opening round at Riviera Country Club gave him a share of the lead with Chip Beck, Dan Pohl and Jumbo Ozaki of Japan.

Shot back

A group of five, including Corey Pavin and Ed Fiori, were just a shot back of the lead at 66, as first-day conditions were virtually ideal and scores were generally low.

Haas won the Bob Hope Classic in January, then finished second to Steve Pate in the Andy Williams Open last weekend.

Haas tops the 1988 earnings list with \$261,331, only some \$10,000 shy of his best previous full year on the tour.

Pate, winner of two of the six tournaments played so far this year, is second on the earnings

list with \$229,888. But he shot a first-round 73 at Riviera yesterday to immediately drop eight strokes off the pace.

Haas' round was a model of consistency. He had six birdies and no bogeys, and clipped three shots off par on the front nine and three more on the back.

He said he thought it would take a very low score to win the tournament.

Tom Kite was in another group at 67.

Defence

T C Chen, who won the 1987 LA Open when he beat Ben Crenshaw on the first playoff hole, shot an opening 72 to begin defence of his title.

Mac O'Grady was among a large group at 70, and another legam at 70 included Tom Watson.

Seve Ballesteros of Spain was in the group with Pate at 73.

The final two rounds of the tournament, which has a \$135,000 winner's prize, will be nationally televised by CBS.

Canberra Open

● In Canberra, Greg Norman was reminded today of a fact most weekend golfers have to live with — one good round is no guarantee of consistent success.

Australia's world number one came out ready to take the course by the scruff of the neck this morning after shooting a course record 62 in the first round of the Royal Canberra Open yesterday.

But he slumped with a 70, hitting three bogeys over the 18 holes, which cut his lead to three shots. Fellow-Australian Peter Senior was second after going round in 69.

Two shots further back on seven-under-par were West German Bernhard Langer and Americans Mike Colandro and David Trentis.

Ladies Open

● In Oahu, Hawaii, Jan Stephenson of Australia posted a four-under-par 68 yesterday to take a one-stroke lead over Ayako Okamoto of Japan after the first round of the \$300,000

Hawaiian Ladies Open golf tournament.

Stephenson began her round on rather shaky ground when she three-putted her second hole from three and one half feet. She came back with two regulation pars followed by a birdie on the par-fourth 14th hole to get back to even par.

On the par-five 16th hole, Stephenson recorded her second birdie on the day when she sunk a ten-foot putt en route to a front nine score of one-under-par 35.

Stephenson was able to record a further three birdies on her back side to finish at four-under-par 68.

Consisted

Okamoto's round consisted of two birdies on the front and two birdies and one bogey on the back.

Last year Okamoto became the first foreign player in LPGA history to top the single-season money list.

Six players are tied for third place at two-under-par 70.



Spain's Blanca Fernandez Ochoa heads for a gate during the first run of women's giant slalom race. (Reuters wirephoto)

Redshaw wins golf title

TONY Redshaw mastered the cold windy conditions for a seven stroke win in the 36 holes Kuwait Closed Championship which finished yesterday at the Hunting & Equestrian Club. Runner-up was Mohamed Siddique and Gill McKinnon became champion of the handicap section for the second time.

The conditions pushed the scoring sky high and only two of the eighty six entrants were able to break 80 in either round.

Redshaw took the lead in the first round with a superb 74 which included even par 35 on the back nine. Siddique was in second place with a 77 and John Plater in third position on 80. Plater's front nine of 37 was best on the day but he dropped six shots on the last five holes.

Contention

Still in contention in the first round were Stephen Watters and R Cooper both on 81 followed by Pieter Van Thiel and Chris Thrupp each posting 82.

Most players had difficulty improving their scores on the second day and it was left to Redshaw to clinch victory with a comfortable second round of 80. This was another major win by Redshaw who is a veteran of 35 years golf in Kuwait and is a former triple champion of the Kuwait Open.

Siddique slipped to an 84 in the second round but held on to runner-up position. Stephen Watters returned an 82 to edge into third place from Plater who carded an second round 84.

In the handicap section, Gill McKinnon (19) fired a first round 72 and an excellent 65 on the second day to take first prize with a net 137.

The championship was sponsored by Toyota via their Kuwait agent Mohamed Nasser Al Sayer & Sons and a new car was offered as a prize for a hole-in-one on hole 13 but it was not won.

Leading scores:
154 A Redshaw (AH)
161 M Siddique (AH)
163 S Watters (HE)



Redshaw: seven stroke win



Gill McKinnon: handicap champion

164 J Plater (AH)
166 P Van Thiel (HE)
166 G Dean (HE)
167 R Cooper (AH)
168 R Cooper (BS)
170 K Sloan (BS)
171 B Griffin (BS)

142 A Redshaw (6)
143 D Poplar (18)
143 S Watters (10)
Team prize tied
444 A Jashemal, K Naylor, A Sinclair, Mrs G McKinnon
444 D Poplar, D Fryer, R Ammis, H A Brown
(Note: AH (Amhad), BS (Buck Sands), HE (Hunting & Equestrian Club))

Net scores:
137 Mrs G McKinnon (19)
141 U S Acharya (15)

SPORTS

Racing Club beat Santos

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Three players were sent off as Racing Club of Argentina beat Santos 2-0 (1-0) in a South American Supercup soccer match on Wednesday night.

Two Brazilian defenders and a Racing Club forward were shown the red card as Santos, one of the best sides in the world in the legendary Pele's heyday, found the going tough against a superior Argentine team.

Racing Club scored through Jose Iglesias after half an hour and midfielder Miguel Colombatti two minutes after the break in the group two first-leg match.

Santos, twice South American champions in the early 1960s, rarely troubled Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning goalkeeper Ubaldo Fillol.

The Supercup, created this year, is for winners of South America's club Championships, the Libertadores Cup, Racing Club won it in 1966.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Salmiya Cup soccer tourney

A ONE-DAY seven-a-side football tournament for the Salmiya Cup will be held on March 4 at the Soor Ground.

Teams can contact tel: 5643558, 5650466 or 5614306 after 6 pm for details.

McNeil wins

OKLAHOMA CITY, Feb. 26, (AP): Top-seeded Lori McNeil, coming off a sluggish first-round victory, beat Catherine Suire in straight sets yesterday and advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$100,000 Virginia Slims of Oklahoma.

"I think overall I played much better (than in the first round)," McNeil said. "Once I got my first serve in, I thought I was pretty much in control."

Suire, who prefers to play at the net, was kept at bay by McNeil's services throughout the match.

AIDS fund raiser

TOKYO, Feb. 26, (AP): Former star Pele and other soccer greats from years past will play an exhibition match in Tokyo in April to raise funds for combating AIDS, organisers said on Wednesday.

Besides Pele, from Brazil, Pat Jennings of Northern Ireland, Michel Platini of France, Johan Neeskens of the Netherlands, Trevor Brooking of England, Teofilo Cubillas of Peru, Paolo Rossi of Italy, Eusebio of Portugal, Alan Simonsen of Denmark, Oleg Blokhin of the Soviet Union and coach Carlos Bilardo of Argentina will face a Japanese team in Tokyo on April 22, they said.

Tilford leads

TAMPA, Florida, Feb. 26, (AP): Steve Tilford of Topeka, Kansas, took the lead after three legs of the Florida portion of the Tour of the Americas despite having to stop his bicycle for more than three minutes yesterday to allow a train to pass.

Tilford and Jose Pacheco of Spain, who moved into second place, were both timed in five hours, 38 minutes, 11 seconds on the 140-mile (225-km) leg from Orlando to Tampa. Pacheco won yesterday's race. Jesper Worre of Denmark finished third and Johan Devos of Holland was fourth.

Tyson-Spinks fight

NEW YORK, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Billionaire real estate developer Donald Trump said yesterday that he paid in excess of \$11 million for the rights to stage the Mike Tyson-Michael Spinks heavyweight title fight.

The fight, one of the biggest boxing matches in history pitting the undisputed and unbeaten champion Tyson against the undefeated Spinks, will take place on June 27 in the Atlantic City Convention Centre.

IBF title fight

LONDON, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Briton Tom Collins will fight American holder Charles Williams for the International Boxing Federation (IBF) world light-heavyweight title in Dublin on April 2, a spokesman for Collins' management said yesterday.

Leonard hints

CHICAGO, Feb. 26, (AP): Sugar Ray Leonard, who announced his retirement last May, says he's thinking of entering the boxing ring again.

In remarks taped for the "Oprah Winfrey Show," Leonard said he wants another chance to take on Marvin Hagler, the man he defeated for the World Boxing Council middleweight title before his retirement.

Benfica, Sporting prepare for club quarterfinals

LISBON, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Lisbon's soccer giants Benfica and Sporting prepare for their European Cup quarterfinal appearances next Wednesday with League games against Maritimo and Académica respectively this weekend.

Benfica, who host Belgium's Anderlecht in the European Cup, face the tougher task with a trip to the island of Madeira while Sporting have home advantage against Académica.

Sporting travel to Italy's Atalanta in the Cup Winners' Cup.

The Italian League resumes after a two-week break with Diego Maradona looked to increase Napoli's five-point lead.

Propheesies

Napoli travel to Pescara where a local priest has prophesied that the Madonna (not Maradona), will appear on a nearby hillside.

Local soccer fans have opted instead for a sight of Argentina's World Cup captain and the match has already been sold out.

AC Milan, second in the League, have a tough home tie against fourth-placed Sampdoria.

Milan are without Dutchman Ruud Gullit, their European Footballer of the Year, who is serving a one-match ban.

Welsh international Ian Rush makes his first trip to Rome's Olympic stadium with Juventus for the game against Roma. Rush last played at the stadium with Liverpool in May 1984 when the English club beat Roma in the European Cup final.

In West Germany, Werder Bremen should have little trouble maintaining their position at the top of the League when they visit Bochum.

Bremen, four points ahead of second-placed Bayern Munich, have beaten Bochum on the Ruhr team's home pitch each time they have met in the last five years.

UEFA Cup

Bremen meet Italy's Verona in the UEFA Cup quarterfinals. Bayern should not be unduly threatened by FC Homburg, currently bottom of the table, while third-placed Cologne play Bayer Uerdingen, another side in danger of relegation.

Spain's European Cup quarterfinalists Real Madrid, five points clear at the top of the Spanish League, travel to Seville for what should be an undemanding match. Real meet Bayern Munich in the Cup.

Second-placed Atletico Madrid are at home to Barcelona in the weekend's most interesting clash.

England make steady start against New Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb. 26, (Reuters): England made a slow but steady start against New Zealand in the second day of the second cricket Test today after bowling New Zealand out for 301.

England lost Chris Broad early for nine, caught bat-pad by Martin Crowe off off-spinner John Bracewell.

New Zealand captain Jeff Crowe wrested the initiative from England by using Bracewell early in the innings and crowding the batsmen.

He released the pressure soon after Broad was out by replacing the tight bowling of Ewen Chatfield and Bracewell with pacemen Danny Morrison and Martin Snedden and, later, part-timer Ken Rutherford.

Martin Snedden and Tim Robinson added 70 runs, taking 13 off one of Morrison's looser overs.

Moxon ended on 42 and Robinson, the more aggressive of the two, finished on 37.

Bracewell got slow turn on the pitch which has played true, if a little low. His performance suggests both sides have erred in not selecting a second spinner.

New Zealand failed to capitalise on their first-day position of 186 for three. They lost seven wickets for 115 with most of the damage caused by quick bowler Graham Dilley.

Dilley followed up his career-best performance of eight for 70 in the first Test with a five-wicket

haul. He took four for 26 today to finish the innings with five for 60. John Wright kicked his first ball from Dilley, with wicket-keeper Bruce French swooping to take the catch. Wright only added two to his overnight score of 101.

Dilley's next two victims were controversial dismissals. Debutant Mark Greatbatch was given out by umpire Fred Goodhall, caught by French, but the keeper did not even appeal for the catch.

The left-handed Greatbatch had looked confident and produced some classic strokes in his brief stay.

John Bracewell also looked unhappy when Goodhall gave him out to a bat-glove catch when he was on nine.

Ian Smith and Ken Rutherford then staged a minor recovery with both players hitting the ball fluently, but Rutherford was surprisingly bowled by David Capel on 29, when he looked well settled.

Smith added to New Zealand's worries when he was out for 23 just before lunch, touching one to French off Jarvis.

Some indication of the lack of venom in the pitch was provided by the last three New Zealand batsmen who frustrated England for an hour and 20 minutes.

Morrison surpassed his previous best Test score of two, making 14 not out. Ewen Chatfield, not noted for his batting prowess, made 10.

England's bowlers succeeded

Fitzgerald upsets Lendl in US Pro tennis

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 26, (AP): Sixteenth-seeded John Fitzgerald upset Ivan Lendl, the world's top-ranked tennis player, 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 yesterday in the third round of the \$600,000 US Pro indoor tennis championships.

Lendl had trouble making his first serves and grew irritated by distractions from a game on the neighbouring court, slamming a ball into the spectators' overhead scoreboard at one point and complaining to the umpire.

Lendl had trouble making his first serves and grew irritated by distractions from a game on the neighbouring court, slamming a ball into the spectators' overhead scoreboard at one point and complaining to the umpire.

"I'm not happy at all about what happened here," Lendl said after the match. "I just couldn't handle the conditions mentally. You need your concentration normally in a match, and this was altogether a different thing for me."

Fitzgerald, who had lost twice to Lendl, won on skill, rushing to the net frequently to hit

placement shots beyond Lendl's reach.

"I played my game well," said the 27-year-old Australian, who is ranked 57th in the world. "I served well and varied my service well."

In the first set, Fitzgerald and Lendl broke each other's service twice, then after the second deuce in the ninth game, Lendl returned Fitzgerald's serve wide to the left. Lendl hit the next shot wide to the right, giving Fitzgerald his first lead of the game.

Service held for the next three games, then Fitzgerald won the tiebreaker easily, 7-3.

In the second set, Fitzgerald broke through Lendl's service for a 4-3 lead and scored the first point of his own serve before Lendl made three straight errors, raising the score to 5-3.

Lendl held service to make the score 5-4. In the 10th game, Fitzgerald took the first point with a

EVERTON BEATEN IN LEAGUE CUP

Arsenal clinch a place in final

LONDON, Feb. 26, (Reuters): After the heady excitement of two money-spinning cup triumphs in five days, Arsenal will be wary of letting their concentration slip in an English First Division contest against struggling Charlton tomorrow.

The English League Cup holders clinched their place in this year's final when they completed a 4-1 aggregate victory over Everton on Wednesday night, four days after beating Manchester United 2-1 to win a place in the Football Association (FA) Cup quarterfinals.

Record

Both matches attracted attendances of more than 50,000 to their Highbury stadium in North London with each match producing record receipts for the club who have lost only one cup tie in 19 since Scott George Graham took over as manager in 1986.

"I hardly got any sleep after the Everton match," said Graham. "The Adrenaline was still pumping. Only now is it all sinking in. The atmosphere was electric and our fans were fantastic."

Receipts from the Everton clash were £20,000 (\$407,000). The 51,148 attendance was Arsenal's third above 50,000 this

season. Only one other club, Manchester United has enjoyed a 50,000-plus crowd.

A much smaller and less animated crowd is expected for the visit of South London strugglers Charlton who are 20th in the table and fighting to avoid relegation to the second division.

Charlton need the points desperately, but are unlikely to find Arsenal's combative and skilful young team — galvanised by the recent midfield pairing of 20-year-old David Rocastle and Michael Thomas — in a charitable mood as they bid to stay among the chasing pack behind runaway leaders Liverpool.

Clear

Player-manager Kenny Dalglish's team, 12 points clear after a 26-match unbeaten run to the season, visit Portsmouth who have hauled themselves away from trouble with a 10-match unbeaten run of their own.

Liverpool will recall Irish international midfielder Ronnie Whelan and Scottish international defender Gary Gillespie who have been out for a month with knee and thigh injuries respectively.

Second-placed Manchester United and third-placed Nottingham Forest are without mat-

ches, but fourth-placed Everton have a chance to recover from their FA Cup and League Cup defeats by Liverpool and Arsenal respectively in their home clash with Southampton.

Knocked out

Sixth-placed Queen's Park Rangers, knocked out of the FA Cup in a replay at Luton on Wednesday, face a London Derby against seventh-placed Wimbledon.

Luton, who like Arsenal still have a chance of appearing in both of the major Wembley Cup finals, play Oxford at home on their synthetic surface on Sunday in the second leg of their League Cup semifinals. The first leg score was 1-1.

Fans are no problem on Tyneside where Chelsea are the visitors to Newcastle, complete with the inventive skills of Brazilian striker Mirandinha.

Chelsea have not won in the League for 14 games — their last was against Oxford on October 31 — but there were signs of a revival in their last two matches against Manchester United and Nottingham Forest.

Tomorrow's game will be their first competitive affair since Bobby Campbell succeeded Ernie Walley as first team coach.

In other First Division action, Coventry will be out for revenge at Watford, the team who knocked them out of the FA Cup.

Trevor Senior scored the goal that settled the fourth round tie and added another to help dispose of Port Vale in their fifth round replay on Tuesday.

Results

Results of British soccer matches played on Wednesday:
English Football Association (FA) Cup fifth round replay
Luton 1 QPR 0
(Luton at home to Portsmouth in quarter-finals)

English football League Cup semifinal second leg
Arsenal 3 Everton 1 (aggregate 4-1)
(Arsenal play Oxford or Luton in April 24 final)
Scottish FA Cup fourth round replay
Hibernian 0 Celtic 1
(Celtic away to Partick in quarter-finals)

English Division Three
Bristol Rovers 4 Sunderland 0
Division Four
Peterborough 1 Haverhill 2
Scarborough 3 Leyton Orient 2
Scottish Division One
Clyde 0 East Fife 4
Division Two
Stenhousemuir 1 Brechin 2
Stranraer 0 Cowdenbeath 4

Suhail wins Masafi Rally

DUBAI: Suhail Bin Khalifa of UAE driving a Land Rover 110 won the 9th Masafi four wheel drive Masafi Rally by over four and a half minutes from Qatar's Saeed Al Hajri in a Mitsubishi Pajero. In third place was the Range Rover of Mohammed Swaidan. The winner is the brother of last year's Masafi winner, Ahmed Bin Khalifa.

"At least we kept it in the family" explained the jubilant winner who was partnered by Mohammed Omar.

Both favourites in this event, Marlboro drivers Ahmed Bin Khalifa and Mohammed Bin Sulayem failed to make the finish in this 1,000 km 24 hour classic. Last year's winner, Ahmed Bin Khalifa, however, looked assured to repeat his success in a hybrid Land Rover but retired early yesterday morning with a broken axle. Bin Sulayem went out later with electric problems.

"When I saw Ahmed broken on the stage, it made me go faster," commented the 23 year old winner.

Only eleven of the 30 starters finished the event, which requires almost equal proportions of crew and vehicle reliability and stamina. Kuwaiti champion Ahmed Al Hilal and Fahid Al Rashid who proved so effective in the 1987 Marlboro Desert Challenge with their Mitsubishi Pajero were among the casualties in this the Gulf's first four wheel drive rally.

"It is good for the sport when a new man wins a major event" commented a clearly disappointed Middle East champion Mohammed Bin Sulayem in main control.

The Bin Khalifa family had another reason to celebrate last night as a third brother, Jamal, also driving a Land Rover finished fifth overall. Fourth place went to Abu Dhabi veteran Hamad Al Mazroui who drove last year's winning car, a Land Rover 110.

Top 5 drivers provisional results:
1. S. Bin Khalifa, Land Rover 110: 8:27:58
2. S. Al Hajiri (Qatar), Mit Pajero 8:32:34
3. M. Swaidan, Range Rover 8:48:34
4. H. Al Mazroui, Land Rover 110: 9:27:14
5. J. Bin Khalifa, Land Rover 110: 9:31:28.

Hadlee may go to India

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Richard Hadlee may have to wait until New Zealand's tour of India in October to get another crack at the world record for Test wickets.

Fast-medium bowler Hadlee damaged a calf muscle in the first Test against England two weeks ago, was unfit for the second currently taking place here, and now seems unlikely to play in the third starting in Wellington on March 3.

He shares the record of 373 Test wickets with England all-rounder Ian Botham and had hoped to make the mark his own in the first game of the series in his home town of Christchurch.

"I couldn't play in the second Test against England and there must be a question mark about the third Test because I haven't done the work," Hadlee told reporters.

Hadlee said he might tour India to give himself a chance to take the record. He had said previously he would not be available for tours of the subcontinent for health reasons and the lack of opportunities for quick bowlers.

Australian tour of Sri Lanka called off

MELBOURNE, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Australia have decided not to tour Sri Lanka in April because of fears about the players' safety, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said today.

"The board very much regrets that it cannot accept the tour invitation in the present circumstances," ACB chairman Malcolm Gray said in a statement.

Hope

"It is an unfortunate situation, but this tour has been postponed in the hope a tour can take place sometime in the future, as we are well aware of the importance of assisting the development of cricket in Sri Lanka at Test level."

This is the third time a tour of the racially-troubled island has been hit.

New Zealand out short a three-Test tour last April because of violence by guerrillas fighting to set up an independent Tamil homeland on the Sinhalese-dominated island. And a short warm-up tour for the World Cup by Australia last September was also called off.

Gray said the board had waited as long as possible before

deciding to call off the proposed tour.

"Advice had been received from the department of foreign affairs and from other sources that showed improvement in the domestic security position within Sri Lanka compared with September 1987."

"But there was still a potential risk which was too great to ignore at this time," Gray said. The tour would have comprised three Tests and three one-day internationals.

ACB chief executive David Richards said discussions would be held with Sri Lankan officials in London in July, when they would be attending the International Cricket Conference's annual meeting.

"The matter will be kept under review and discussions will be held with the Sri Lankan board with the object of scheduling an Australian tour to Sri Lanka at the earliest opportunity."

"But this is unlikely to be the next 18 months because of other tour commitments," Richards said. Australia are touring Pakistan in September and October this year.

Boon hits century

SYDNEY, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Australian Test opener David Boon reached fresh heights in his season of mounting achievement when he became the first Tasmanian to score a century in each innings of a Sheffield Shield Cricket match today.

Boon followed his first innings of 108 against Shield joint leaders Queensland in Launceston by hammering a superb 143 from 165 deliveries, striking 23 fours and one six.

Boon, whose outstanding form recently made him International Cricketer of the Year in Australia, spurred Tasmania to 264 for seven at the close of the third day — an overall lead of 382 with one day left.

England all-rounder Ian Botham provided the only brake on Queensland's progress by capturing three for 23 in the space of 6.2 overs, having Danny Beekingham and Richard Soule lbw to successive balls in his fourth over.

Queensland, level on 32 points with Western Australia, were earlier lifted by Glenn Trimble, who hit a sparkling, unbeaten 138 from 177 balls with 20 fours in their first innings of 363 for five declared.

Western Australia were in trouble against New South Wales in Sydney, slipping to 18 for two at the close in pursuit of their victory target of 333.

New South Wales had earlier recovered from 38 for five to 213 for eight declared. They were rescued by Trevor Baylis, top scorer with 68, Test off-spinner Peter Taylor (42 not out) and discarded international Greg Matthews (41).

Denmark continue winning streak

NEW DELHI, Feb. 26, (Reuters): Japan's powerful men's team was upset by India in the Thomas Cup qualifier yesterday but their women had a convincing victory in the Uber Cup and looked set to book a place in the finals in Malaysia in May.

The Japanese women beat Nepal 5-0, giving away just six points in the tie.

Thailand's men looked only slightly less authoritative in beating Sri Lanka by the same score in the Thomas Cup.

Meanwhile Indian's Syed Modi struggled to find the form which won him a Commonwealth Games medal in 1982 before beating Hiroshi Nishiyama in straight games.

Nishiyama put up a good fight in the first game.

Japan's Shinji Matsura levelled scores in a stiff contest against Vimal Kumar. Matsura won the first game by scoring 10

points in a row after being down 5-12 and took the second by an identical margin after trailing 2-8.

Former All England champion Prakash Padukone gave India the lead again, beating Shuji Matsuno with a sparkling display of courtcraft in which he lost just six points.

Matsura and Matsuno levelled scores for Japan a second time by drubbing Partho Ganguli and Vikram Singh 15-0 15-6 in 20 minutes to set up a rubber between the Padukone-Uday Pawar combination and Japan's Nishiyama and Tetsuaki Inoue.

The Japanese put up a brave resistance in the second game before giving India the match and the tie at 15-3 17-15.

In an equally thrilling encounter in the Uber Cup, Somharath Jareonsri put Thailand back into the tie, after her team had lost the first two matches to India, by beating Archana Deep-

thar 11-3 11-5.

Chen Rui Zhen and Amporn Kiatpiat stretched India's top ranked pair of Madhumita Bishit and Azmi Ghia before losing 15-11 15-17 and giving India the tie. The Thai pair of Penpanor Kiangthammium and Piyaithip Sansananyakulvilai won the dead last match.

Meanwhile, today Japan qualified for the Uber Cup women's world team badminton finals in convincing style while the Japanese men renewed their hopes of reaching the Thomas Cup finals.

Japan's women clinched the single place from the qualifying event here for the Kuala Lumpur finals starting in May when they thrashed India 5-0.

But the upset of the day was staged by the Japanese men, who trounced Thailand 5-0 and can now qualify for the finals if India lose to Thailand on Saturday.

Thailand's Sompol Kuk-

asemkij enjoyed an 11-5 lead in the first game before Hiroshi Nishiyama rallied to draw level at 11-11. Nishiyama went on to win 18-15. Kukasemkij trailed 7-0 in the second game but made a fight of it before losing 15-10.

Sbinji Matsura stretched Japan's lead by defeating Karoon Kasayapanan 15-11 15-9 and Shuji Matsuno completed a clean sweep of the singles with a 15-4 15-7 victory over Surachai Makkasathorn.

The Thais offered sterner resistance in the doubles where the two matches went the full distance before Japan emerged victors.

Winning streak

In Amsterdam, Netherlands, top-seeded Denmark yesterday continued a winning streak in the qualifying rounds here for next May's world badminton championships in Kuala Lumpur.

In the men's Thomas Cup event, Denmark scored 5-0 vic-

tories against Spain and Belgium, while the Danish women also trounced Spain 5-0 in the Uber Cup.

England, the number two seed, scored 5-0 victories against France in the Thomas Cup and against Wales in the women's event.

Denmark's Thomas Cup win against Belgium included matches by Jens Peter Niehoff against Jan De Mulder, 15-11, 15-10, as well as IB Frederiksen's 15-5 15-9 win against Alain De Leeuw and Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen's 15-0, 15-9 victory against Dario Van Nieuw.

In England's Thomas Cup matches against France, Stephen Baddeley beat Franck Pélissier 15-11, 15-7, while Steve Butler scored a 15-6, 15-1 victory against Stephane Remault.

In other English-French play, Nick Yates beat Cyril Villemin 15-1, 15-4.